

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. I.]

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1823.

[No. 47.]

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—737—

Politics of Europe.

In making a second draught upon the supply of English Papers brought us by the *Resource*, we are now enabled to lay before our Readers many interesting articles which we could not possibly include in our Paper of yesterday.

In our Second Sheet will be found an account of the Entertainment given to Mr. Hume by his Friends and Admirers at Aberdeen. It is pleasing to observe such patriotic exertions as his rewarded by the heart-felt approbation of a grateful Public, whose applause must more than compensate for the scowling abuse with which the *JOHN BULL* of London and other Ministerial Prints have pursued his Parliamentary labours. Their utility in the present circumstances of the national finances are incalculable, and it is hardly too much to accord him the honor of being mainly instrumental in introducing a new era in the House of Commons. The Ministers have lately sustained defeats in their profuse financial measures; and it is hoped that next sessions they will find themselves often in minority, to which the exertions of Mr. Hume may be expected to contribute in no small degree.

Sir William Herschell.—This venerable and distinguished Astronomer, died on Sunday Sept. 1, at Slough, Bucks, aged 84 years; whose memory will be immortal in the annals of that sublime science. As an Astronomer he was surpassed by no one of the present age; and the depth of his scientific research, and extent of his heavenly observation, rendered him perhaps second only to the transcendantly great and immortal Newton. To the wonderful Telescope of his invention, the world of science is more indebted for important and gratifying discoveries in regard to planetary objects than to any other instrument ever produced by human genius; whilst his discovery of the remotest of all the planets (named by him the *Georgium sidus*, in honour of the late King) would of itself be sufficient to give proud immortality to his great and venerated name. He was a Knight of Guelphic Order, and Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, President of the Astronomical Society of London, &c.

Donations by his Majesty.—To the donations by his Majesty to the public Institutions of Edinburgh, already mentioned, we add the following:—To the Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools (of which his Majesty has been graciously pleased to become Patron), 100 guineas; to the Royal Public Dispensary for the city and county of Edinburgh, 50 guineas; to the New Town Dispensary, 50 guineas; to the Magdalen Asylum, 50 guineas; to the Destitute Sick Society, 50 guineas.

Dublin, Sect. Sept. 21.—His Grace the Duke of Devonshire honoured the Mayor of Cork with his company at dinner on Thursday last. His Grace was also pleased to patronise a concert on the following evening, for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Ashe.

On Saturday last a ploughing match was held a Ballyrafter near Lismore, where the Duke of Devonshire, and a numerous body of Gentlemen from various parts of the county of Waterford, assembled. Seventeen ploughs started, chiefly belonging to farmers. After the distribution of the prizes to the best ploughmen, the parties proceeded to the farm-yard of the Castle, when a show of cattle, selected from the best stocks of the country, was exhibited. In the evening, a numerous company dined at

the Inn in Lismore, which was favoured by the presence of the Duke; the entertainment was of the best description, and the company did not separate until an advanced hour.

Bell's Weekly Messenger, Sept. 22.—The appointment of Mr. Canning has not as yet led to the consequences which have been anticipated from it, and we will venture to add, will never lead to such consequences in the degree reported. We believe the truth to be, that the Cabinet has never of late years been more united than at the present period. A very few words will explain this assertion.

The late services of the Duke of Wellington, and particularly his steady adherence to the King, personally, during the unfortunate affair of the Queen, rendered him the closest friend to his Majesty; scarcely a day passing in which he did not pay a visit to Carlton House, and for four days at least in every week, breakfasting, dining, and supping with the King. His Majesty, as we understand, caused it to be intimated to the Earl of Liverpool, that he wished the Wellesleys to be admitted into as prominent a participation in the discussions and measures of the Cabinet, as the situation of the Ministry, and the just claims of the officers already belonging to the high responsible situations, would allow. Lord Liverpool and Lord Castlereagh very fully acceded to this recommendation, and Lord Wellesley was, in consequence, nominated to Ireland. From this period the favour of this family has been daily upon the increase, and Lord Londonderry had become daily more and more connected with it.

Now, Mr. Canning, as is well known, has been of late years what may be termed the man of business; that is to say, the great political agent and instrument of the Wellesleys,—and accordingly, the Duke and his brother had no sooner secured and established their own footing, than they sought to advance the fortune of their most immediate friend. Accordingly, the King's prejudices against Mr. Canning were so continually combated, that his Majesty at length assented that he should be appointed to the first high situation not of the Cabinet. The King himself, as the best report proceeds, shortly afterwards put into the hands of Lord Liverpool a letter from the Marquis of Hastings, signifying his Lordship's desire to return from India, and that his Majesty would be pleased to appoint his successor. At the same time, his Majesty, as our intelligence states, addressed himself to Lord Liverpool in these words,—“Let Mr. Canning go to India.”

What we infer from this statement,—for the truth of which we can almost affirm—is, that his Majesty had so gradually sacrificed his first indignation against Mr. Canning, to the concurrent instances of Lord Liverpool and the Duke of Wellington, that he was fully prepared to admit him into the Cabinet, when the death of Lord Londonderry afforded him the opportunity. Upon the occurrence of this unhappy event, all parties united to procure Mr. Canning's nomination to the vacant situation. There was, indeed, one difficulty; but where the King himself had given an example of the sacrifice of his own personal dissatisfaction, it was impossible that a private individual should be more tenacious. We see no occasion for any reserve. The person in question was the Lord Chancellor, who conceived himself to have been uncivilly treated by Mr. Canning upon the two occasions of the Catholic Bill, and the New Marriage Act,

This impediment, we have reason to believe, gave way upon an explanation, very satisfactory, of the real opinions, and the real limits, in future practice of Mr. Canning; and the consequence has been, that the Lord Chancellor has consented to retain his high office seat in the Cabinet.

Under these circumstances, therefore, we cannot see any probability of those changes and resignations which some of the daily journals have anticipated; and we are, in truth, the less inclined to give any credit to the mere assertion of these journals, inasmuch as we see they have been in error all along with regard to the appointment of Mr. Canning. Upon the very occurrence of the death of Lord Londonderry, we distinctly stated that Mr. Canning would be appointed to the vacant office, and very shortly afterwards we saw that there could be no other appointment. We knew, in fact, that every impediment would give way to the favour of the Duke of Wellington, and to the sincere efforts of Lord Liverpool, to obtain an associate, whose eloquence and whose readiness were adequate to the management of the House of Commons. In Mr. Canning's speech at Liverpool, we recognised the substance of the explanation given to the Lord Chancellor and to those other members of the Cabinet, by whom the Catholic Question is opposed. This explanation fully satisfied those members, and the immediate consequence was, that every impediment was removed to the appointment of Mr. Canning.

Upon this point, it is of some public interest to understand one of the conditions upon which Mr. Canning becomes Foreign Secretary. This condition respects the Catholic Question. Upon this subject, Mr. Canning, it is understood, submits to the opinion of the majority of the Cabinet—that the present is not the season to renew the agitation of that question; and that it is better to receive the little which can and will be conceded by the King and Parliament, than to obtain nothing by an obstinate conflict with invincible obstacles. In plain words, the Catholics must remain as they are, or, at least, must expect a vote against them from Mr. Canning.

Upon every other subject, we believe, there is a perfect concurrence on the part of Mr. Canning, in the system of foreign policy adapted by Lord Londonderry, and so much favoured by the King. Mr. Canning's principles, however, are assuredly much more liberal, and less servile, than those of the late Marquis; and we believe he is so well inclined to the Greek Cause, that he will attempt something in their favour. He will certainly not follow servilely in the tracks of any one; and as the Marquis Wellesley, and the Duke his brother, are prepared to coincide with him, we so far anticipate as respects the Greek Cause, a more enlarged and liberal policy.

Upon the great question between the Landed Interest and the Government,—namely, the extension of reduction, we fear that Mr. Canning will disappoint the opinions which are formed. The truth perhaps, here, is, that the possible remedy lies with those gentlemen themselves. They must reduce their rents to the standard of the times. If corn at eighty shillings per quarter could afford forty shillings rent, it is an easy operation of arithmetic to learn how much can be afforded when corn is at forty.

Meeting of Bank Proprietors.—On Thursday (Sept. 19) at 12 o'clock, a Quarterly General Court of the Bank Proprietors was held, according to the charter, for the purpose of considering of a dividend. The Court was numerously attended. The Chairman on opening the business of the day, said, he thought it necessary, before he submitted any proposition to the Court to state to them, that he had received a letter from Mr. Gundry, in his usual style, and which letter he would read to them. The letter, in substance, was a demand that the writer, as a proprietor, should receive a particular account of the present affairs of the Bank, their profits, and the expenses of management. Such an account as those given by the banks of France and that of Edinburgh, and which, if refused, would subject the Bank of England to the reproach of a violation of the first principles of justice and humanity, &c. The letter was ordered to be inserted in the minutes. The Chairman then stated, that the Directors hav-

ing fully considered the affairs of the Bank, had come to the determination of submitting to them the propriety of declaring a dividend of 5 per cent interest and profit of stock, for the half-year ending on the 10th of October next. Mr. Young wished to know whether the increase of discount business had supplied the loss of profit since the reduction of the rate of discount from 5 to 4 per cent. To this question no specific answer was returned; but only a general reply, that all circumstances had been taken into consideration by the Directors, when they recommended a dividend for the last half-year of 5 per cent.—A dividend of 5 per cent. was then agreed to unanimously, and the warrants were ordered to be issued on Friday, October 11.—A proprietor enquired if any and what progress had been made in producing a new note? He had understood that the plan last proposed, of which he never had a very high opinion, had been abandoned; but he yet thought others might be devised, which would render forgery much more difficult.—The Governor observed, that this was a subject that had and would receive the best attention of the Court. He was, however, happy to say, that now the Bank had few or no prosecutions—lately they had but one person in custody in the United Kingdom.

Destruction of Rouen Cathedral by Fire.—Extracted from a Rouen Journal:—"The 15th of September, 1822, will unfortunately be too celebrated in the annals of the city of Rouen. This morning, at a quarter past five o'clock, in the midst of a slight storm which passed over the town, the lightning fell on the principal tower of the metropolitan church, which it struck at the bottom of the spire. In an instant the wood-work caught fire, and the flames spread with such rapidity, that in a quarter of an hour they enveloped the whole tower and reached to its top. The alarm occasioned by such an event brought together the whole population; but no human aid could prevent the destruction of the part on fire, and a few minutes before seven the spire fell upon the roof. At this moment the fire enclosed in the tower burst out with augmented fury; and while we write this short notice, nothing more remains of this grand pyramid but its stone base: the upper roofs of the church are broken through by the fragments falling upon them; and the terrified imagination, considering the vast number of houses adjoining this grand edifice, knows not where the deplorable disaster will stop. The difficulty of collecting facts in the midst of such a scene of desolation compels us to postpone farther details. We content ourselves now with stating, that the greatest activity prevails among the citizens, the firemen, and the soldiers of the garrison, to alleviate as far as possible the terrible consequences of this calamity."—The following historical particulars respecting Rouen Cathedral may not prove unacceptable to our readers:—It was founded A. D. 900, by Robert, Archbishop of Rouen, brother of Richard the Second, Duke of Normandy, but was not finished till the year 1060. It was 410 feet in length, 83 in breadth; the length of the cross aisles was 164 feet, and the height of the spire 395 feet. There were seven entrances to it, and 130 windows. It was one of the most costly and magnificent Gothic structures ever seen; it was literally frosted with ornaments; there was not the smallest piece of stone, not the back of a niche, nor the base of a figure, but was covered with the finest Gothic work. In it were interred the bodies of John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France; Henry, brother of Richard I.; and the heart of Richard Cœur de Lion, together with many other illustrious men.

Malta, July 19.—Captain W. H. Smyth, of his Majesty's ship ADVENTURE, who has been employed for several years past, under the orders of the Lords of the Admiralty, in surveying various parts of the Mediterranean, and whose able and indefatigable exertions in that service have been attended with the greatest success, has lately returned from an arduous survey of the neighbouring coast of Africa. He left Malta on the 5th of March last, for Benazai, where he arranged with the land party destined to explore the interior, under the charge of Lieutenant Beechey, respecting their journey to Cyrene. The ADVENTURE then proceeded to Alexandria, where she arrived on the 23rd March; Captain Smyth there made a complete survey of the two harbours, of the town and its fortifications, and fixed its position at

to latitude and longitude. From thence he proceeded along the coast anciently called the Catabathmos, took Astronomical Observations on shore at the several points and headlands, and completed a coast survey of the whole distance from Alexandria to Derna, at which place the operations had terminated on the preceding voyage of the *ADVENTURE*. By this service the hitherto unknown Gulf of Syrtis has been thoroughly explored, and the survey of the whole coast, between Tripoli and Alexandria, is now, for the first time, entirely completed. In addition to the valuable Hydrographical information acquired by this survey, the sites of numerous ancient cities and stations have been accurately determined, and such data obtained as will throw very important elucidations on the writings of Herodotus, Scylax, Leo, and Strabo.

Steam Carriages.—Mr. Griffith of Brompton Crescent, will very shortly introduce to the Scientific and Commercial world, carriages which can be propelled by steam upon common roads, and employed for the common purposes of conveyance. Under his inspection a carriage has been completed at the Pimlico manufactory; it is twenty-seven feet in length, including seven feet for the fire, boiler, cylinders, and the mechanism connected with the driving-wheels. The weight of the carriage (which is in form of a caravan), and the whole apparatus, may be calculated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton; it is destined to carry three tons of merchandise, making a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons, upon wheels conformable to the regulations established by law, and subject to the usual restrictions. The velocity with which the carriage may be made to move, depends upon the quantity of steam conducted into the cylinders. About five miles an hour will be the general speed.

Nautical Experiment.—Yesterday (Sept. 13) a trial took place in Portsmouth Dock-yard, in the presence of the Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart. K. C. B., Admiral Sir J. H. Whitshed, K. C. B., Captains Sir Jas. Alexander Gordon, K. C. B., Lieut. Governor Loring, Capt. Mingay, and the principal officers of the Dock-yard, to try the comparative strength of two anchors, of about 40 cwt. each—one on Mr. Perring's plan (lately Clerk of the Cheque at Plymouth), the other on Mr. Brown's (Master Attendant at Woolwich.) The power applied was as follows, viz. a piece of timber was placed across the openings of two storehouses, on which were placed, east iron blocks for the reception of the *pin* of each anchor, so as to ensure the same distance of leverage on both anchors; two treble blocks were fixed on the rings of each anchor, and on the falls of these blocks were attached two treble blocks, the falls of which led through leading blocks and the power of fifty men was applied on each fall; when, after a strain of a few minutes, the shank of Mr. Brown's anchor broke at about two feet distance from the crown.—Mr. Perring's anchor was not in the least deranged. The supposed strain amounted to nearly forty ton weight.—Mr. Perring's plan of manufacturing anchors, is that commonly adopted, namely, by the use of the small hammer, whilst in that of Mr. Brown's the forge hammer only is used; and had the anchor proved equally strong with Mr. Perring's, there would be a saving of expence equal to about 2d. per lb.—so much less of labour and coals being necessary.

Semaphore Signal Stations.—The line of Semaphore Signal stations between the Admiralty and Plymouth, is not expected to be established before June next. It will form a part of the Portsmouth only as far as Bannicle Hill (Surrey), where it will branch off to the Westward. There will be twenty-one posts (or Semaphore houses) between Plymouth and Bannicle Hill, whence to the Admiralty, there are eight. The following is the established line of communication between the Admiralty and this place:—

Admiralty, Lieut. Pace; Choisea, Spiller; Patney Heath, Pollard; Kingston Hill, Nops; Cooper's Hill, Robinson; Chatley Hill, Harris; Pewley Hill, Smith; Bannicle Hill, Ralph; Haste Hill, Carpenter; Holder Hill, Archbald; Beacon Hill, Lever; Compton Down, Harrison; Portsdown, Williamson; Lumps Fort, Gould; Portsmouth, Smyth.

A message from the Admiralty to Portsmouth is conveyed in one minute and a few seconds.—*Hampshire Telegraph*, 14. Sept.

Premier Peers.—It is somewhat remarkable that the Premier Peer in each part of the United Kingdom should be in opposition

to the present Ministers, viz. the Duke of Norfolk in England, the Duke of Leinster in Ireland, and the Duke of Hamilton in Scotland.

Thomas Jay, the King's Postillion.—The recent trial of the above individuals at the Old Bailey, for picking of pockets, and the subsequent trial of Gook, and Harrison and Connell, constables of St. James's parish, the evidences against him for a conspiracy must be fresh in the recollection of our readers. Gook, Harrison and Connell, we understand, again presented a Bill to the Grand Jury, now sitting at Clerkenwell, for the attempt to pick pockets at Drury-lane Theatre, and on Friday last a true Bill was found. He was yesterday taken into custody, and is now lodged in the New prison, Clerkenwell.—*Morning Chronicle*, Sept. 24.

Recorder's Court Friday, Sept. 20.—A woman was indicted for stealing a set of bagpipes, the property of Denis Sullivan, a Kerry piper. The woman was acquitted, and the Court ordered the pipes to be restored to their owner, a poor miserable looking man, whose care-worn cheeks and hollow eyes (though unfavourable to the expression) evinced the greatest delight at again possessing the source of all his joy and solace of many an hour of gripping poverty; in the fulness of his heart the Kerry piper begged the Court would allow him to strike up *God save the King* or *Patrick's Day*; the Court begged to dispense with this proof of the musician's gratitude.

Curious Fact.—It is a very curious fact, but one for the truth of which we pledge ourselves, that on the very week before his death, the Solicitor of the Marquis of Londonderry had called, by his desire three several times upon Messrs Simpkin and Marshall, the publishers of O'Meara's "Voice of St. Helena," to demand that Mr. O'Meara should be delivered up to him for prosecution! Mr. O'Meara desired to be instantly surrendered, and even retained counsel. The passage at which his Lordship took offence is contained in the second volume, p. 224, relative to the fortune of Maria Louisa. His Lordship had declared his intention of proceeding by information, a mode which deprives the accused of the benefit of a Grand Jury.—*London Magazine*.

Herschell the Astronomer.—Sir Wm. Herschell, whose death is announced in our first page, was a German by birth, and son of a musician, in which profession Sir William was originally educated and excellent on several instruments. He was master of the band of a Regiment, which was quartered at Halifax in the year 1770. Sir William continued here for many years, but disliking the monotony of a country town, he removed with his brother to Bath, where they were both engaged, for the pump-room band by the late Mr. Linley. Sir William, like his nephew Griesbach, was esteemed an excellent performer on the oboe, as his brother was on the violoncello. This latter gentleman remained at Bath until within the last few years, when he retired to Hanover to reside with a young brother, a musician in his Majesty's Royal band. Sir William pursued his profession at Bath for some year, highly esteemed by a numerous circle of friends, and increasing in fame and fortune; but if it had not been for one of those little accidents which determine the "path that men are destined to walk," Science might have lost the advantages of his brilliant discoveries.—He employed his leisure hours in Astronomical observations and experiments; and some of them having fortunately attracted Royal attention, that great patron of the Arts, George the 3d, was resolved that "Herschell should not sacrifice his time to crotchets and quavers." Sir William, under his gracious patronage, relinquished his profession, and devoted himself entirely to astronomy and the manufacturing of telescopes. From Bath he removed to Slough, where he created one of surprising magnitude in his garden, through which he discovered the distant planet, which he called the "Georgium Sidus," in honour of his illustrious Patron, and which has been the admiration and wonder, not only of astronomers of this, but of every other kingdom. Sir William possessed the "milk of human kindness" in an eminent degree, and was most anxious to gratify his numerous visitors by explaining the "complicated machinery of his mind," in the simplest manner.

Dinner to Mr. Hume in Aberdeen.*From the Morning Chronicle of Thursday, September 12, 1822.*

On Thursday last a party of more than 100 of the townsmen and country Gentlemen entertained Mr. Hume at dinner, in Anderson's, New Inn. Alexander Bannermann, Esq. in the Chair. The dinner was sumptuous, and that and the other arrangements did great credit to Mr. Anderson, and gave general satisfaction. The toasts and remarks were taken up with great spirit, and the utmost glee prevailed the whole evening.

The following, among many other toasts, were given:—

"The King,"—"The Constitution,"—"The Royal Family"—may they never forget the principles which placed them on the Throne."

The CHAIRMAN, in giving Mr. Hume, said, that he saw, with great satisfaction, the company then assembled, and all ranks combining to pay respect to a Gentleman, who had distinguished himself so much, and whose merits were as well known as his name. If there by any difference in political opinion among us, yet we join unanimously in our admiration of the man, who is the prime supporter of the rights of the subject, and the watchful guardian of the public expenditure. But besides Mr. Hume's well-known merits, he could say, that every individual who had his cause in the hands of Mr. Hume might be sure of kindness, dispatch, and satisfaction. He would make no unnecessary compliments, and therefore he gave—

"Mr. HUME" (three times three)—drank with rapturous applause.

Tune—"There's nae luck about the House when our gudeman's awa."

When the plaudits ceased, Mr. HUME said (often interrupted by applause) nearly as follows:—He was at a loss for language to express his feelings at that moment. The way in which the Chairman had brought his name to the notice of the meeting, and the kind manner in which they had been pleased to receive the toast, had made a deep impression on his mind, that could never be effaced. If he failed to express, in adequate terms, what he felt on the occasion, it would arise from an over anxiety to do justice to his feelings. The credit they had been pleased to give him for his public conduct, was very much above his desert, and it was difficult for him to express his thanks to them as he wished. On no occasion had he had the honour to address a numerous meeting, better able to judge of the conduct of public men than the present; and after this mark of attention in meeting him here, he would endeavour to explain to them very shortly the course he had pursued, without alluding to his own humble exertions, more than, under all the circumstances, he found himself obliged to do. It was peculiar to this country, to witness such meetings as the present where so many respectable and independent Gentlemen met, to welcome one, a stranger to them personally, and only known by his public conduct. He was fully sensible of the honour conferred upon him by such meetings, and the assistance he derived from them in his public capacity. It was one of the many important advantages which Englishmen enjoyed, under the British Constitution, to be thus enabled at public meetings to mark their opinion of the conduct of public men. Whilst he was well aware of, and highly valued, the advantages which the glorious Revolution of 1688 had secured to this country, he could not shut his eyes to the many abuses also, which in lapse of time had crept into that Constitution. It was the duty, therefore, in a peculiar manner, of every person placed in the House of Commons, to use his best exertions to remedy the existing abuses, to improve, protect and secure those advantages which we ought to enjoy. If he had read that Constitution aright, the liberty of the people, the independence of Parliament, and the dignity of the Crown, were equally to be guarded and valued; and it behoved every member of the community equally to protect them all (*hear, hear*). In the mutable state of human institutions, it was a proof of wisdom to suit the establishments in the country to the intelligence and circumstances of the times, thus to obtain the greatest portion of happiness to those who lived under them. That knowledge of every kind, and political knowledge in particular, had been diffused most widely in this country within the last 30 years, might be learned by the immense increased circulation of the daily and periodical literary and political publications, which had taken place; and it was the duty of our rulers to have had this circumstance always before them. Under a wise and just Government, it was to be expected, that the increasing means of wealth, knowledge, and power, which this country possessed, the happiness and prosperity of all classes of the people would have increased. But was this the case? Did not complaints of great distress, and even want, reach us from most of the branches of the community, and this, too, while Providence poured upon us abundance of every produce, almost to overflowing? Such a state of things could only, he thought, arise from misgovernment, and it was incumbent on every man, placed in the situation he was in, to ascertain the cause, and to attempt relief and reform

(*hear, hear*.) He was well aware that attempts were made, by a biling press, to put down every man who endeavoured to correct abuses, and an alarm was sounded against him, that he intended to overturn and destroy, instead of amending and establishing the Constitution. Such had been the system long pursued by the adherents to Mr. Pitt's system. It had been one of their most powerful engines, for the last 30 years, and he regretted to think it had been but too successful, in keeping up and increasing those abuses which had gone on, until the threatened, at last, to sweep all that was valuable into inextricable ruin. It was not an easy task, under these circumstances, for any body of men, and much less for an isolated individual like him, to succeed in any efforts to remedy abuses of such long continuance in the Government. But, with the perfect knowledge of these difficulties, he had proceeded, and it was highly satisfactory to him to know, by the approbation of many of his countrymen, as well as of the present company, that his humble exertions had in some degree succeeded. It was right to state that he had, on entering the House of Commons, joined the Opposition undoubtedly, and he thought there was not one dissatisfied person here, or elsewhere, who, after reviewing the ruinous system of the Ministers of the Crown for so many years past, would not have made the same election, if he had solely contemplated the relief of the people, and the protection of their rights. He hoped, however, that attention to his past conduct would show that he had only attached himself to the Opposition (known by the name of Whigs) when their measures were such as he could conscientiously support. By the Whigs, he meant those who, whilst they upheld the dignity of the Sovereign as Chief Magistrate, were jealous of the encroachment of power upon the rights and privileges of the people. He could assure the Meeting that he was not conscious of ever having given a vote in the House of Commons that tended to limit the privileges, or interfere with the just rights of the people, but that his invariable object had been to limit the undue power and influence of the Crown, and to increase the just influence of the people; and such, he submitted, ought to be the conduct of all those who considered the object and end of good government, as contemplated and secured under the Constitution of 1688, to be the welfare of the community at large, and not the aggrandisement of the few. He did not now inquire, whether the Opposition had always acted on these principles, to the extent they ought to have done; but in deciding between the professed friends of liberal principles and the supporters of the Pitt or intolerant Tory system, there could not be for one moment, he thought, a doubt. As the fruits of the Pitt system, unfortunately now so evident to us all, he had only to enumerate those evils which now weigh down all classes of the community—a system of profusion and extravagance—an undue influence maintained by the public money, which was at one and the same time the cause and effect at large and unnecessary establishments. Our military establishments, for instance, in a country where the Government by the Constitution is purely civil, were large and unnecessary to extravagance—the expense of the army alone being eight millions which in 1792 was little more than two millions—both periods years of peace, and no circumstances to warrant such an excess. The public debt had been increased from 240 millions, at a charge for interest of nine millions—to 835 millions at an annual charge of 31 millions. Those persons interested in keeping up the expenditure of the country, had an undue influence in the House of Commons, and thus these evils were produced, and those changes and reductions prevented, which the situation of the country required. They had declared themselves ready to forfeit life and fortune to support the King and Constitution, and well they might, enjoying, as they did, so largely of the taxes of the people; the system worked well with those; but he must always consider these as interested persons, and their opinions of little value—they were in the situation of men to be removed from the Jury box on a challenge of being personally interested in the issue of the cause. But where were the suffering community? Did the system work well for the people? Why were not their calls attended to? Because the party in power for 30 years had had, and still have possession of that influence which prevents redress in the House of Commons where alone it can begin with any prospects of success. With these opinions of the evils of the Pitt system and of their cause, he was confident that every man who heard him would, if in his power, use his best exertions to effect a Reform, and would, in fact, he hoped, approve of the measures he had adopted, to obtain that desirable object. It was by a Reform in Parliament alone, that our present difficulties could be overcome; not suddenly, but by degrees; and he had, therefore, voted for every motion for Reform that had been proposed in Parliament, whether great or limited. In the difference of opinion which existed on the subject of Reform, it behoved all Reformers to act in union, and to agree on some one or more points on which unanimity might prevail; to obtain these, if possible, as steps towards the more general and extended Reform, which so many considered necessary for the security of the country. It was too common for the supporters of corruption, and those who fattened by the public spoils, to hold up to ridicule the friends of Reform,

MISCELLANEOUS.

—741—

and turn to derision the anticipated consequences from it. He should ever contend, that although Parliamentary Reform could not immediately raise the price of corn, or remove famine, that it would, by giving the people a proper check over the expenditure of the public money, prevent so large a proportion of the earnings of industry as is now wasted, from being taken from them, and lavished on the idle and the useless. Reform would give the people the election of men who make laws for the protection of their lives, property, and all that is dear in life. Reform would put an end to sinecure offices, and unnecessary establishments, and leave in the pockets of the people the means of purchasing more corn and necessities, and of providing against such a famine as we had witnessed in Ireland—a famine from the want of money to purchase, in the midst of abundance of every kind. Whilst he so strongly advocated economy and retrenchment of useless expenditure, he never had, nor did he believe that any person present would refuse, the necessary means to pay, in the most liberal manner, every useful servant to the public. These were the distinctions he wished to draw; the results he expected from Parliamentary and Burgh Reform; and he was confident, his conclusions would bear the test of sober inquiry, better than the witty observations of the opposers of Reform. In the belief that the influence arising from the large and unnecessary expenditure, was a great bar to a Reform of abuses, he (Mr. H.) had taken the course he did, of exposing to public view the profligacy of that expenditure; the lavish waste of the public money; and, in spite of every attempt to crush his progress, and deny the correctness of his statements he had succeeded in awakening the public to discern one great cause of their distress. To the utmost extent, indeed, he might claim the merit of patient and laborious inquiry and perseverance; but he might have gone on long without success, if the difficulties of the landed interest had not seconded his exertions. That numerous and powerful class of men, who had for so many years, while their pockets were full, balled on the extravagant expenditure of the Pitt system, which had spent in 24 years upwards of 1,500 millions sterling regardless of the warnings received now were loud in their clamours, and pretended to be ignorant of the causes of their distress. They do not see, or will not understand, that by their blind support of the Minister of the day, in all his measures, the present enormous debt contracted—that the interest of that debt was year after year paid by loans; and the country never felt the weight of the interest until the loans ceased in 1817. From that date their distresses commenced, and they must bear with them, as of their own bringing on, unless they come forward and compel a reduction of public expenditure and taxation to the lowest possible scale as the only means of affording relief. It will be recollected by many he now addressed, that in the Session of 1831, all his motions for the reduction of the military establishments; of the high salaries; of the expense of collecting the revenue, &c. were rejected by the House of Commons, in confidence, and on the declaration of the Minister, that every establishment was at its lowest scale, and that every attention possible had been paid to the expenditure of the country. As an example of the conduct of the House of Commons, only 48 Members voted for his motion, to reduce 10,000 men from an army of 81,000—and it was only after continued exposures of the extravagant expenditure, that the House, before prorogation, addressed the King to promote economy and retrenchment in every department.—It was undoubtedly most gratifying to him to find the Ministers, who had opposed every the smallest reduction when proposed by him (Mr. H.) making during the recess, a reduction of 12,000 men; and ordering an inquiry into the expenditure of every department of the Government. With such success, certainly more than at first had been anticipated, he (Mr. H.) had renewed his labours in the last Session and had found much more attention from the Ministers to his various recommendations. Reductions of taxes and expenditure had indeed been made, and others were in progress; but they were not by any means commensurate to the wants of the country. It was, he believed by the manifestation of public opinion, shewed so decidedly in favour of his proceedings, by the cities of London, Hereford, Gloucester, and other places, that his means of utility had been increased. It was not, therefore, on his own account, that the proceedings of Meetings like the present were important and valuable, but that they gave a support and consequence to the efforts of public men. As an isolated individual, with no support from a family or party, he could never have obtained one-tenth of what had been effected, without the public support. He highly valued the honest approbation of the Meeting on these grounds, and was proud of their support on the public account; and he trusted his future conduct would merit a continuance of their good opinion. The influence of public opinion, in the present state of intelligence in the country, when called out, was great—it had been manifested powerfully in the case of the late unfortunate and injured Queen—it had been shown in the course of the proceedings of last Session; and with the prospect of aggravated distress to the landed interest, and little to any other, he looked forwards, with confidence, to the powerful influence of public opinion on the Government, if properly directed. He hoped the Whigs would now

come forward and disclose what they would do for the people if they were in power—they ought to pledge themselves to what extent they would go in promoting Reform in Parliament, and in reducing the expenses of the country. If they would do so, they would be backed by public opinion, and they might then do all the good anticipated by their most sanguine admirers. Without such a decided line of conduct, he was confident they would not receive that support which would aid their wishes, if they were directed to getting into power. He had omitted to state, that any exertions on his part would have availed but little, if they had not been seconded so ably and so zealously by those Honourable Members, whose names they were familiar with, who had on all occasions stood forward in the public behalf; and whilst he entreated the Meeting to give those Members the credit they so well deserved, he hoped the public would come forward and afford that effectual support, which must compel the Ministers to attend to the wants and wishes of the public and to promote economy and retrenchment in every department, as the best means of bringing about a real Reform in Parliament (hear.) He begged pardon for having so long detained them and for having so inadequately explained the motives of his conduct; but would conclude with again thanking the Meeting for the honour done him on this day, and assuring them, that his humble exertions should be continued in the course he had hitherto, to their satisfaction pursued (loud and continued plaudits).

"The Navy and Army,"—"The Lord Lieutenant of the County."
—"Peace Abroad, and Economy at Home."—Tune—"Deil tak' the Wars."—"Mr. Farquharson, of Finzean, and the Members of Parliament who support Mr. Hume, and success to their labours," three times three (great applause.)

Mr. FARQUHARSON returned thanks, and said, that as long as he had a seat in the House of Commons, he would attend to the rights of the people, and oppose all wasteful expenditure of the public money.

Montrose, Arbroath, and Brechin, long may they continue to send their present Member to Parliament."

"Tune—When I have a sixpence under my thumb,
I'll get credit in like town,

"The Burghs of Aberdeen and Berrie. 'May their Rulers change their minds before next Election.'—Tune—"Fee him' Father, fee him."

Mr. BURLETT, Younger, of Leys, complimented the Chairman on the honourable and independent manner in which he had come forward on the present occasion, and proposed his health, which was drunk with three, times three, and great applause.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks, and said, that he was always happy to meet his Fellow Citizens, among whom he was generally pretty well supported; but that supported as he was on the present occasion, both on his right and left, he should have no hesitation to appear here or elsewhere (applause.)

"A Reform of Parliament, and a Fair Representation of the People in the Commons House" (applause.)—Tune—"This is nae my ain house!"—"The Land of Cakes."—"The health of the Gentlemen who should have been here, but who are unavoidably absent."—Tune—"What the devil ails ye?"—"The Whigs, may they always shew themselves enemies of corruption and extravagance, as well as friends to the liberties of the people."

Major LEITH HAY proposed a Toast, which was suggested by the one just given. He professed himself a Whig, and in an animated manner, and with great applause, gave an epitome of the character of the great Whig Leader, and drank to.

"The Immortal Memory of Charles James Fox, Mr. Skene, General Hay and the other Whigs present."—Tune—"Ye're welcome, Whigs."

Mr. SKENE said, he had always been the zealous advocate of Reform, and as long as he lived he would not change his sentiments on that subject. He felt proud to see so many Gentlemen expressing their sentiments freely; and if any thing could make him more hearty in the cause in which their guest, Mr. Hume, was engaged, it would be the having seen the reception which the Citizens had given that Gentleman this day. He proposed "the Burgesses of Aberdeen, and hoped, that by and by, they would have that influence in their own matters which they ought to have, and which is now usurped by a self-created set.

The CHAIRMAN regretted there was not a Magistrate present, and said, the next Toast which he meant to propose, was one which he was sure would be drunk with much pleasure. He need only name a Nobleman who had paid the greatest attention to the interests of Scotland, and to whom the Aberdonians in particular owed their thanks, although his labours in their cause had as yet been unsuccessful.

"Lord A. Hamilton," three times three, and great applause.—Tune—"Had I the wyte!"

In the absence of his Noble Friend, Mr. H. would offer the Meeting thanks in his name, for the manner they had received the toast. The

Noble Lord would have derived much pleasure to have been present on this occasion, but previous engagements prevented him. At the request of his Noble Friend, he would state the course which the inquiry before the House of Commons into the Petitions from the Royal Burghs had taken; and however much the friends of Reform were disappointed by the result, they had obtained some decided advantages. It would be recollected by many gentlemen present, that when the Petitions detailing the abuses that had taken place in the Burghs, from the existing system of self election of the Councils, were presented, the allegations were denied by the Honourable Member for Edinburgh and others, who had all along opposed themselves to any reform. It was well known, that, in the first Committee, the case of this Burgh was fully gone into, and the proceedings were before them to prove, that every alleged abuse had been fully substantiated. In that and the other two Committees, every allegation of abuse was made good, even by the majority of the last Committee, who were decidedly hostile to Reform. All were confirmed and stood on record, by separate Resolutions of the Committee. The differences took place as to the mode of remedying these long continued and ruinous abuses. Lord A. Hamilton, Sir R. Ferguson, himself and others, contended, that without some modification of self election, the evils could not be remedied. But all our exertions could not obtain the smallest change in that system. He would have been satisfied with a fourth, or an eighth, or even one-tenth of the Council in a year, but even that moderate reform was refused. He thought it an indefinable disgrace to the Minister, to see such glaring abuses proved to exist generally in Scotland and to refuse to entirely the Petitions of the people. No hopes from such men could be expected, although he was sanguine that, under others, the crying abuses would be redressed. It was childish to think that the abortion of a Bill, called a Bill to account for the common good of Burghs, loaded as it was with useless detail, could meet the complaints of the Burgesses against self election. He thought that men were not to be trusted with power, unchecked and uncontrolled, as self election gave them. And were the Members of the Council of Aberdeen Saints, or Angels, which they were not, he could not trust them, or expect justice under the narrow system of self election (*hear, hear*). It was a lamentable state to see the affairs of the Burghs in general in such hands, and (with some honourable exceptions) conducted so much against the interests and feelings of the community in which they live.—The case of Inverness was proof, how regardless the Ministers were of the requests of the people, and of their interests. The self-interested system, maintaining the few at the expense of the many, was clearly manifested by this last and most disgraceful act. Although defeated in the Committee he had endeavoured to obtain the insertion of clauses to enforce of the Council, and to prevent Tax-gatherers, Stamp-Masters, and Collectors from holding the offices of Councilor or Magistrate. It was a principle recognised and acted on by several Acts of Parliament against public servants of Government in England, and it was fair to have expected the same in Scotland. He could assure the Meeting, that his Noble Friend would persevere in his efforts to obtain justice for the Burgesses of Scotland; and he should feel proud to co-operate as he had hitherto done with his Lordship, to obtain that desirable object. He entreated the Burgesses of Aberdeen and of Scotland to persevere in their demands, and to afford every assistance in their power to those advocating their cause in Parliament, until success should crown their exertions (*Acrr.*)

"Mr. Brougham—May his exertions in the cause of education, teach the administrators of public charities to mend their manners."—"The Liberty of the Press without its licentiousness—May it never be the means of inflicting an unmerited wound."—Tune—"My minnie's ayglowing ower me."—"General Hay and the Agriculturists of Aberdeenshire."—General HAY returned thanks.

"An end to all connection with our Brethren and Cousins German, or rather German Cousins—The Holy Alliance."—Tune—"Had awa frae me, Donald."

Major HAY rose and said, when here upon a former occasion. Mr. Hume told us he could not knock at the Treasury door and expect it to be opened to him, and Pensions or Sinucres placed at his disposal; but he then pledged himself to use his best endeavours to produce a reduction of the burdens which pressed upon the people. How he had redeemed that pledge every succeeding day of the last Session of Parliament proved in his country and to the world. He had not knocked at the Treasury door, but he had thundered at the portal of corruption, until the rotten barrier gave way and disclosed the terrified and astonished inmates. The toast he proposed was—"May every Representative of the People redeem his pledge to his Constituents, with as much honour to himself and benefit to the country as Mr. Hume."

"The Shipping Interest—particularly of this port. It has had its full share of the prevailing distress, and may it soon be relieved."

Mr. SKENE, of Skene, gave the Town's Motto—"Bon Accord," and "happy I am to see we have got it amongst us, although we have not any one of the Magistrates."

Tune—"Tullechgorum."

Mr. HUME proposed—"Mr. Skene, of Skene" (three times three and great applause).

Tune—"Old King Cole was a jolly old soul."—"Mr. Maule"—(three times three).

Mr. HUME said, that he had seen Mr. Maule the other day, who desired him to express his regret that he could not be present this day.

Mr. BURNETT, yr. of Leys, proposed to drink to—"Sir Ronald Ferguson."

Tune—"Whigs o' Fife."

Mr. HUME, in a few words, took notice of the part which Sir Ronald Ferguson had acted in the Burgh Committees, from the last of which he (Sir R. F.) had retired in disgust.

"A Free Trade and no Treaties but Commercial Ones."

Mr. HUME had received permission to give a toast, which he was persuaded would be well received. It was the health of an Hon. Friend of his, Mr. John Maule, M. P. whose connection with this and the other adjoining Counties was so well known. It should be known, that Mr. M.'s exertions in Parliament of late, to obtain correct accounts of the public Revenue and Expenditure, would be productive of great advantage to the public. The Committee which lately sat to examine into the mode of keeping the public accounts, was appointed mainly by the exertions of Mr. M. Mr. H. then stated, that the errors that existed in the public accounts were by a clause introduced by Mr. M. in a Bill in 1820, clearly made out last Session, and a Committee could no longer be refused. The committee had reported, and he believed much benefit would be derived from the system recommended by them although the plan or form submitted by Mr. M. of which he Mr. H. approved as best, had been rejected by that Committee.—Mr. Hume gave, "The health of John Maule, Esq. M. P."—three times three.

The CHAIRMAN gave—"The Duke of Sussex," and begged to couple the toast with the word used by that illustrious Personage at a late public Meeting—the Respectability of the Crown, the Durability of the Constitution, and the Prosperity of the People.

"Ireland—may neither its Peasantry feel want, nor its Rulers want feeling."

"Civil and Religious Liberty."

Mr. SKENE gave—"The Greek Nation—oppressed by Barbarians and no one to assist them; but he trusted their native strength would enable them to establish their independence."

"The Independence of South America."

The Constitutional Spaniards."

The Traders of Aberdeen, and the independent Men of that Body who are present."

Tune—"The Smith's a gallant Fireman."

Mr. D. MILNE proposed—"The Health of Major Leith Hay,"—drank with great applause, and Major Hay returned thanks.

"Trial by Jury."

"The Independent Press of this country."

Mr. HUME could not give the toast put into his hands without expressing his opinion of its importance. We owed so much to the Press, that he would never interfere to check its productions however much its freedom was abused by licentiousness. He considered public men, like himself, as public property, and their acts to be canvassed and examined as much as any person thought proper; and he would promote public discussion, on all occasions, as much as possible. He was confident that no man had need to attend to the misrepresentations and falsehoods which were so freely issued from the hired and debased Press against every man who challenged the conduct of Ministers, or pointed out the abuses of the Government. He had had his share of such abuse, but it gave him very little trouble—*Magna est Veritas et prevalebit*. He considered that private character in private life should be held sacred, and not exposed by malicious falsehoods and misrepresentations, as was too much the case with the hired press—as their disturbance of private peace and domestic quiet was often as serious as what arises from the midnight robber and dastardly assassin.—As those persons, who profited by abuses and peculations, were the readiest to employ, and the easiest to pay, these literary assassins for their dirty work, the public were under great obligations for the exertions of the independent press, and for the trouble they take manfully to expose the corrupt practices and the abuses which exist, as well as for their manly efforts to protect public men from the infamous attacks of the malicious and hired writer.

"Impartial Justice and Security Property; the best Barometer of Public Credit."

Tune—"Money in both Pockets."

The Arts and Sciences—and Mr. John Ramsay."

Mr. RAMAGE said, that if he had forwarded the Arts, he considered himself repaid by the honour done him.

"A real Retrenchment—the best indemnity for the past, and security for the future."

Tune—"Jenny's Bawbee."

"The Colonies, and may their prosperity be such as will enable them to support themselves without sucking their mother."

Tune—"Oh dear what can the matter be?"

"Fewer Taxes and more money to pay them with."

Tune—"We've aye been provided for and sat will we yet."

Mr. HUME took leave of the company after a short address, thanking them for their good opinion; and trusted, that if it depended on his continuing the course he was pursuing, he should meet them again and again without its having undergone any diminution. And he left the room with the Chairman, loudly applauded.

Mr. SKENE, of Skene, took the Chair, and kept up the harmony of the Meeting with the spirit peculiar to him, till the company broke up.

Royal Visit to Scotland.

EDINBURGH, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1822.

The people of Scotland appear to have now had enough of the Royal presence. We say not this in allusion to their disloyalty, for any one who would accuse them of that, would belie their real feelings and character as much as they have at one time been belied by the public Addresses of ignorant and interested bodies, or the private tale of hireling and infamous informers; but they have looked on and been delighted as long as is consistent with their sober and industrious habits. The provincials, except those that are paid for remaining, have to a man returned to their homes, and in the Royal progress through the streets to and from the Ball and the Theatre, on the two preceding nights, not above half the inhabitants, even of the most thinly peopled street along which the Royal cavalcade passed, turned out to gaze upon it. The final displays of the Royal person in the Scottish metropolis are not, therefore, worthy of much notice, as indicating the genius of the country; and as they were made up of the same persons, habited in nearly the same costume, to which we have alluded again and again, they have little charm for the public generally, and consequently little claim to a detailed or particular notice. We shall accordingly do little more than glance at them. The first one for this week was—

THE CALEDONIAN HUNT BALL.

It having been presumed that the title of the "Peers' Ball" had precluded many fair daughters of Scotland from enjoying a more prolonged gaze at royalty than they could enjoy at the Drawing Room, or during the progress—it being well understood, that from the spirit of their forms, and the vigour of their limbs, these daughters appear to great advantage in the Diana boundings of their own chaste dances; and furthermore, it being matter of demonstration that the paraphernalia, if not the persons of ladies, are best shown off by the glare of artificial light; it was resolved that, in order to gratify the supplemental fancies of Caledonian beauty, a second ball should be held. The floors of the George-street Assembly Rooms were accordingly re-chalked, the front re-illuminated, and the refectory re-supplied on Monday evening. With some few additions, and perhaps an omission of two, the same company met, and the same trip of reels and flings were measured out. In one respect the King was better accommodated, and therefore he was more highly pleased; an enlargement of elbow-room was afforded him. At the former ball there was no physical veil of separation between the King and his subjects save the mere step to the platform upon which was erected the throne. Those subjects, in the ardour of their love and their curiosity, thronged so closely about him, that the person of his Majesty was thrown into a perspiration; and the ears of those to whom, had he not been so hemmed in, he doubtless would have communicated his royal opinion of the ball, went empty away; there can be no more deep and serious reason for the King's not being gratified by this thronging around him of the Scottish belles; for, at the drawing-room, though his Majesty was silent on the score of their beauty, he passed a willing and well-merited compliment to their cleanliness. This, though in itself a greater, and, to English ears, a more unexpected compliment, was not just exactly what the daughters of Scotland would have liked. They would have borne a little more of the old and ill-founded taint of being slovenly, if the King had condescended to land their charms. The English must not question the accuracy of the royal judgment, for, in addition to a good deal more activity and personal pride, the Court dresses of the Scottish Ladies were all new, while of those which flamed in the Drawing-rooms at Carlton Palace, not a few are perfumed with the effluvia of three generations. Still, clean as the ladies were, they were not allowed to press a second time upon the King. His Majesty was tailed in, and allowed to hold full and free

converse with the Duchess of Argyll, and such other ladies as he graciously condescended to notice. When we mention the names of the ladies who were honoured by the attention of the King, we of course mean nothing more than that he spoke to them, for we disclaim the insinuations of those scandal-mongers who let slip no opportunity of traducing the female character. We regret that the name of a widow lady of most respectable family, and unquestionable honour, has on this occasion not been protected from the tongue of slander. To those who know her no vindication is needed by us—no wound could possibly be given. His countenance was brighter, and his stay longer than upon the former occasion; and perhaps the company was more joyous. It is said that the King suggested some alteration of the costume of the Hunt, in memorial of his royal taste and condescension.

THE MASONIC PROCESSION.

Although this was not favoured by the real presence of his Majesty, yet as it was under his sanction and patronage, and attended by those chosen Peers and others to whom he had granted his Royal commission, it properly enough deserves a niche in the record of the Royal Visit. It had long been the wish of a certain class of persons in Scotland, to erect upon the Calton-hill, at Edinburgh, a copy of the Temple of Minerva Parthenon at Athens, avowedly to commemorate the share which Abercrombie, Moore, Lynedoch, Rosslyn, and other gallant Scotsmen had, in bringing the war of the Revolution to an issue, and perhaps also covertly as a sort of expiatory sacrifice for the destruction which a Scotsman had wrought upon the original structure at Athens. This intended structure had been pre-baptized. The National Monument of Scotland; but the name had not been so well received as his Grace of Atholl and others, the original projectors, had intended. By some, the idea of a national monument was coupled with the idea of the death and sepulture of the national independence; and by this it was alleged that in the public burdens which had been imposed for the carrying on of the war, Scotland had a monument *ere perennius*. The projectors, being unable or unwilling at their own charge to erect the monument, sought aid from the Church. The General Assembly lauded the thing as "a most suitable and appropriate expression of gratitude to the Lord of Hosts;" but they did not put their hands very deeply into their own pockets, nor were their recommendations very efficient upon the pockets of their flocks. Thus the matter languished for years, and though through the eloquence of Lord Binning, more than one attempt had been made upon the bowels of the House of Commons and the bounty of the public; these bowels were not moved nor that bounty opened to the giving of any sum. The subscription had however been accumulating *gutta per guttum*, till it was hoped that with the ecstacy of his Majesty's presence, they might venture to lay the foundation. Preparations were accordingly made for this purpose, and the ceremony took place on Tuesday, the 27th of August.

Between the hours of 11 and 2, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Provisional Lodges marched to the number, as we should suppose, of about four thousand of the ancient and mysterious craft of Masons. His Grace the Duke of Hamilton, in his place as Grand Master, supported by the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Rosslyn, the Honourable Colonel Duff, and a number of other Noblemen and Gentlemen. The procession began to move from the Parliament-square at about a quarter past two. It proceeded in proper order along crowded streets, guarded by cavalry, till the head of it came to the Waterloo Hotel, where the Duke of Atholl, the Earls of Rosberry, Hopeton, and Elgin, with Viscount Melville and Lord Lynedoch, joined it, as his Majesty's Commissioners. The whole then ascended the maze paths of the Calton, which was scarcely less thronged than on the day of the King's landing between lines of the 13th and 66th regiments, till they arrived at that summit of the hill upon which the building is to be erected. The Calton has three summits; on the South stands a Monument to Nelson; on the West the Royal Observatory; and on the North this building. The foundation has been prepared with care, and the stone nearly 8 feet each way, and 15 in, that hung suspended from a crane. A platform was erected in the east for the office-bearers of the Grand Lodge, with a crimson table in front for their implements and insignia; and on the west was another platform for his Majesty's Commission, the Magistrates of Edinburgh, a Committee of the Subscribers, the *flag-end* of the Scottish household, and some other authorities.—From accident or intention, those who had had the charge of the preparations had not been over-attentive to the masonic part of the array; there was no platform for the Brethren of the Grand Lodge, and they had to scramble around the place as they best could.

When the Grand Lodge had thus proceeded to the ground, his Grace the Duke of Atholl declared the will of his Majesty, read the Commission, and intimated to the Grand Master that all things were ready for the work. The Grand Master then said—"As we have received his Majesty's authority, and heard his commission, so do we now proceed with the work." The Grand Chaplain implored the blessing of the Almighty Architect; the Grand Treasurer and Secretary laid the depositions and the stone was lowered, the band playing "Great

light will shine." The Grand Wardens applied the square and lead, and the Grand Master took up the mallet amid the loudest cheering to complete the work. When that was done he pronounced the benediction on the edifice. Then he emptied the cornucopia, poured out the wine and the oil, and pronounced the benediction on the people, which, as was every speech of his Grace, was answered by loud cheers. The signal gun was fired, the Calton, the Castle, the Craggs, Leith Fort, and the shipping fired royal salutes, after which the Grand Master re-ascended the platform, and pronounced the Address:—Gratified, as he could not but be, to feel himself called on this occasion to perform this duty, it was a duty which he could have wished had fallen into hands more able, more willing he could assure them there could be none. If he looked around to either right or left, he saw none but those, the sight of whom was of itself a gratification. They had now laid the foundation of a structure, the model of which had been the admiration of the ancients, which has lasted and had been admired for ages, and which has resisted the corrosion of time, and even the unhallowed rapacity of barbaric conquerors. With reference to the object of the edifice, he would say, that whatever were the glories of ancient Greece, Scotsmen were so valiant in the field, that those of Greece hardly excelled them. The site chosen for this edifice was a peculiarly fortunate one—it was hallowed ground—it was near the spot where rose a monument to the memory of a hero, who, after having broken and vanquished the combined enemies of his country, died as he had lived in the arms of victory. The accompaniments were highly gratifying—it was gratifying to be in the presence of those whom the King had appointed as his Commissioners, and in presence of the Magistrates of the city, and other high personages, and to be surrounded by so many of his countrymen. He would also say a few words respecting the time. It was that of his Majesty's visit to Scotland—a visit which would, he trusted, be productive of happy effects. He did not allude to the mere expressions of personal attachment to the Sovereign which had been evinced, but to something more substantial and valuable. The arrival of the King had connected him more intimately with Scotland. It gave the King an opportunity of seeing Scotchmen as they were, and of judging of them from more intimate and personal information. It had let him see the people of Scotland, and enabled him to judge of the manner in which they were governed; and it would thus enable him more promptly to redress their wrongs, and more completely to forward their improvement. It would endear the King to the people, and unite the people to the King. He was peculiarly pleased with the number of brethren of his own sacred and mystic order who had honoured the ceremony by their attendance; and he was proud in naming to them the Grand Master Elect (Argyll), who was so soon to fill his place—whose name was dear to Scotland in the best and proudest of her ances, and whose posterity would, he hoped—he was sure, never tarnish the fame of their ancestors. He thanked all his mystic brethren for their attendance.

When his Grace had concluded there were three rounds of very loud prolonged, and animated cheering.

After the cheering had subsided, the Duke of Atholl, as *loquitur* for the Commission, in the name of the King, returned thanks to the Grand Master, Wardens and Brethren, for their attention. He read the preamble of the Act of Parliament, incorporating the contributors, of which his Majesty was the Patron, and concluded by stating, that two remarkable events were connected with this great undertaking—the ground was broke on the day of the anniversary of his Majesty's birth; and this day the stone was laid, it being the anniversary of the abolition of Christian slavery; for on this day, the fleet under the command of Lord Exmouth had laid low the walls of Algiers and set the captives free.

Some cheers followed the speech of his Grace, but they were faint and few compared with those which had been bestowed on the Grand Master. Perhaps they were got up too; at least we discovered, 'mid the thick phalanx of the Grand Lodge, one wight (with symbol) who was anxiously inquiring for and applauding Atholl, till a wag misdirected his attention, by pointing to the Duke of Hamilton as the object of his admiration. After this he was silent as to the Commissioner, and applauded the Grand Master.

About five o'clock the procession, leaving the Commissioners at their Hotel, moved to Freemasons' Hall, where the Duke of Hamilton again thanked them—expressed his anxiety to promote their charity school—and shut the Lodge, amid the most rapturous plaudits.

The feeling manifested by the Members of the Grand Lodge may be held as no bad criterion whereby to judge of that of the people of Scotland generally. They are from all the provinces—are of the middle class of society—and always persons of education and discernment. The difference of their applauses to the two Dukes may therefore be considered as a sort of barometer of political opinion.

THE THEATRE.

The crowd began to collect at the Pit and Gallery doors by one o'clock, and by four, numbers of females who had stood the squeeze, began to give way, and the most of them were borne off senseless. About ten of the male sex were pushed from one to another in a lifeless state, till they reached the open air. About six o'clock the boxes began to get crowded. When Glengary came in, he was received with a shout, but the welcome ended with a hiss. Sir David Baird was also cheered when he entered his box. Another military officer, who was said to be the Earl of Hopetoun, was welcomed with loud shouts. The brave Col. Stewart of the 43d was observed entering the second tier of boxes, and loud plaudits were heard from all parts of the house, whether intended as a compliment to his book or his own personal attraction, was doubtful. It was now about seven o'clock, and the gods, unaccustomed to sit so long for the commencement at eight o'clock, began to be a little restless. Some humorous fellow amongst them commenced singing "And lang Syne," in a drawing sharp sort of style, and the whole joined in the chorus. At first we thought they were going to welcome his Majesty with one of the Psalms of David, as from the slow way they sang it, reminded one of a country congregation drawing out the line. This kept them in great good humour, and no impropriety was committed on those below. Mr. Mash now entered with the Manager, and arranged the chair of state. The Beef-eaters were placed on the stage about this time, which seemed rather to give dissatisfaction, as the house did not know it was the etiquette. Sir Wm. Arbuthnot was loudly cheered on his appearance, but his new honours seemed to sit heavily on him. He required to be touched on the arm by Lord Arbuton, before he answered the compliment by bowing to the house. Lady Scott and daughters were recognised on entering their box, and welcomed by loud shouts, and shortly after the Earl himself appeared in the back seat, and was repeatedly called upon to come forward. About five minutes past eight, his Majesty's arrival was announced by loud cheerings from the crowd outside. The *Corps Dramatique*, too, were seen arranging themselves on the stage to welcome him with the national anthem. He entered the Royal box exactly ten minutes past eight, and was received with the most enthusiastic cheering, the crowd without answered the peal. His Majesty bowed in his usual manner, and seemed quite pleased with his reception. The cheering continued for some minutes. Glengary had stood during the previous part of the evening at the back of the box fronting those set aside for his Majesty, with his bonnet on, and he remained covered for some time after the singing of 'God save the King.' When he was observed, however, he was hissed and hooted from all quarters till he obeyed the voice. At the right hand of his Majesty stood the Duke of Montrose, Lord Cathcart, Duke of Argyll; behind, the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Errol, and several others; on his left, the Duke of Dorset, and Sir W. Keppel. His Majesty appeared highly pleased with the performance (which was *Rob Roy*), striking time to the music, and particularly at the playing of 'The Highland Fling,' he moved his body to the tune. When Mrs. Siddons appeared he ruffed, and from time to time he appeared to ask explanations from those around him. He laughed heartily when the *Bailie* (Mackay) mentioned that the people of Glasgow used to call his father and him Old Nick and young Nick. At the scene where Frank Osbaldistone wishes to lay hold of Maty, and the *Bailie* orders him off, and tells him he wishes none of these Lannon tricks, the King again laughed heartily, and made a remark to Dorset. But what appeared to amuse him most was, when the *Bailie* tells the little boy who had found his hat and wig that "he would be a man afore his mither." In short, he paid the greatest attention during the whole of the performance, and seemed to enter into the spirit of it, ruffing at those parts which had national allusions, or where the actors excelled. A Lady in the next box, who was looking earnestly at him, happened to catch his eye—he bowed to her. Between the acts he looked around the house, and seemed highly delighted with the ladies. When the play had finished he rose to depart, but the house shouted for the national anthem which was again sung, and he went off amid deafening shouts.

His Majesty is to attend at a splendid breakfast party at Hopetoun House, near Queensferry, to-morrow, and that, with his embarking (which is expected the same evening), will close the Royal spectacle in Scotland.

Ship News.

Capt. Wm. Hendry, of the *DOTTEREL*, 18, is promoted to the rank of Post Captain.

The *JUPITER*, 68, Capt. Westphal, is completely ready for sea, and will go out of Harbour in a few days.

Capt. Howles, R. N. Comptroller-General of the Coast Guard of England, is now travelling through Devon, Dorset and Hants, making an inspection of the different stations in these counties.

One hundred and thirty-one vessels have sailed hence for foreign parts since our last. — *Liverpool Courier*.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—745—

Panegyric and Condolence.

To the Editor of the Journal.

DEARLY BELOVED EDITOR,

It is with feelings of the most poignant anguish, that I condole with thee, O ill-fated mortal! upon the intelligence which has reached my ears, touching thy future destination, which thou callest Transmission. I have seen thy pen lifted up in the cause of truth, justice, freedom and humanity. The voice of Tyranny hath often been silenced by thy frown, and the rod of Oppression hath trembled at thy approach; but Child of the Earth, nothing is permanent under the Sun. Thy oriental career is at length cut off by the irresistible sword which the Prophet has put into the hand of him who is for a time lifted upon the pinnacle of Authority, and whose elevation, it is decreed, shall be of much shorter duration than thy sojourning in this land—yes, and very transient. It hath been the custom of my forefathers to implore the protection and blessing of Heaven upon all those whose exertions have done any good for the public; and as thou hast, by thy indefatigable zeal and industry, amply merited such a tribute at the hands of thy fellow-subjects, my humble voice and that of my poor comrades shall be raised for thy safe and speedy passage to the land of thy fathers;—yes, and for thy speedy return to this Country, from whence thou art so suddenly and peremptorily banished, where thy presence has been so useful, and whither thy return will be so joyfully greeted by all its inhabitants of different languages, habits and nations.

Ere the waves of the Ganges float the Vessel, that shall contain all that is earthly of thee, out of the confines of this City, let me whisper a word or two of advice in thine ears, to the end that thy reputation and that of thy countrymen in this hemisphere, may remain unsullied by the breath of infamy. Disclaim then, Friend of the Faithful! all acquaintance and connection with thy competitor JOHN BULL; for though thou mayest thyself be an animal of this sort, being an Englishman, yet, that abiding in the East, is one of northern breed, very resolute, and wont to butt thee and all liberal minded folks with his horns. Methinks, I have often times beheld thee mounted upon the back of this furious beast, seizing its tail with thy right and its horns with thy left hand, and thus dragging it in triumph before thee, along the Streets of this Metropolis, whose inhabitants had thronged to the spectacle in order to bear witness to thy victory; For a bridle could never be put upon its tongue.

Before I conclude this Epistle of panegyric and condolence, Child of Misfortune! hearken unto the request, which I have to make of thee, and if thou grant it, may health and the benediction of the holy Prophet attend thy footsteps, and bear thee in peace unto the land trampled of old by the invincible legions of Caesar, and now guarded by the Sons of Neptune. It hath been related to me, that vast quantities of Indian Rubber, Blotting Paper, Black-lead Pencils, Rulers, &c. &c. are bought and sold by an Israelite that sojourneth here, and as others say by a Druid; and some again assert, that he be a *Sans culotte*, coming from a far Country that lieth on the north of the River Tweed, abounding in bleak hills, and everlasting snows. Be this as it may, peradventure, they of his profession in this said region, do the like, at a cheap price, in which case, pack thee up a few boxes of the above-mentioned Commodities for my use and profit; for believe me, friend, this diversity of occupation engendereth industry, and hath been greatly praised and practised by my bearded brethren the Children of *Ishmael* from the remotest antiquity even unto this day.

Peace be unto thee, and may the Prophet bless thee and thy seed for ever!

Do not, I beseech thee, forget the Stationery that consisteth of Paper, Quills and all other articles sold by the Israelite that sojourneth here.

Salam Alikum.

Calcutta, 20th Feb. 1823.

ABRAHIM ALLY.

Indian Alliances.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

In reply to the Query, page 637, of your JOURNAL, I have to observe that Mr. Mathew, now a Resident of this City, who then was and still is married to a Country-born Lady, was sent home A. D. 1804.

I know not whether such an act was, or was not a stretch of power;—but I know that now-a-days Might gives Right.

Your obedient Servant,

Feb. 15, 1823.

A Foe TO OPPRESSION.

Zeal in the Cause of Religion.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Are you correct in your information, that the Rev. Dr. BRYCE was not present, on the 21st instant, at the Meeting of the AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, holden in the Town Hall? Then tell it not in *Edinburgh*, mention it not in the streets of *Aberdeen*, lest the Daughters of Caledonia weep, and her venerable Clergy hang down their heads! How far they will credit your report, to me, it is a matter of some doubt: for they have read what he has written in the cause of Religion—they have read what he has written on the BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY—they have read what he has written on the necessity of translating the SCRIPTURES into the languages of India, as the best means of christianizing her sons who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. That your readers may also know what he has penned in the good cause, (I give his own words,) "To improve the morals of our Indian subjects, and to bestow upon them a rule of life and manners, which shall be free from superstition, dignified in its motives, perfect in its prescriptions," for "the system of Hindu morality is woefully deficient;" you must indulge me with space in your columns, to make a few selections from his SKETCH OF THE STATE OF BRITISH INDIA, printed by George Ramsay and Co. Edinburgh, 1810. Without further observations then, I commence with the proposed quotations.

In page 342, he says: "It cannot, however, be denied, that the greatest blessing which we could confer upon the Natives of India, would be their instruction, in the doctrines and precepts of Christianity; and if to attempt their conversion were liable to no other objection than the little prospect of success that can be rationally entertained from it, the very possibility, that we may, in this respect, prove more fortunate than others, may both demand, and justify our perseverance. It will not, indeed, in this view of the subject, be easy to absolve the Church of England, from the charge of having hitherto neglected a duty, which the extension of the British empire, seems naturally to have devolved upon her; or from that of having left it to those, who do not content themselves with simply dissenting from her Doctrines and Worship, but whom she also regards, as desirous of subverting her Government."—Well: I find by your report of the late Meeting of the AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, that the sober Churchman was there, the pious Independent was there, and also, in Dr. Bryce's language, "even the Zealous Baptist" was there; but the Doctor himself was not there; who is every where else. I have seen him at Assemblies, I have seen him at Races, I have seen him at most of the Meetings for secular purposes, I have seen him at Theatres, I have seen him at Concerts, and I have seen him at Balls and Suppers. Will your readers believe, that avocations of a more important and momentous nature, prevented his joining the Friends of the Bible at their late Meeting in the Town Hall? I confess, I am a sceptic on this head.

I shall now quote what he says, in page 351 of his SKETCH, relative to the circulation of the Bible in this country: "The translation of the Scriptures into the vulgar languages of Hindustan, and their dispersion amongst its inhabitants, is another means of diffusing the knowledge of the gospel, about which a difference of opinion cannot exist among Christians. It comes, too, recommended by no less an authority than that of Sir William Jones, whose

piety as a Christian, and whose intimate acquaintance with the religion, laws, manners, and customs of India, are universally acknowledged. It has, accordingly, been already adopted to a considerable extent. Besides a translation of "such chapters of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, as are indisputably evangelical, together with one of the gospels, and a plain prefatory discourse, containing full evidence of the very distant ages in which the predictions themselves and the history of the divine person predicted, were severally made public; the whole Scriptures have been translated into the Hindustanee and Bengalee Languages; and other versions into the Tamulic and Malay Tongues, are said to be now either completed, or in a state of considerable forwardness. Of the success which has attended this measure, it is difficult to form an accurate opinion. By some accounts it is represented, as having produced a wonderful spirit of inquiry in Bengal and other parts of India, where the lower classes are said to sigh after the Scriptures, with an avidity, which all the power and threatenings of the Bramins cannot restrain. It would appear, however, from the testimony of the Baptist Missionaries themselves, to whom the translation and dispersion of the Scriptures have, in the opinion of some, been injudiciously confided, that so far from being always received with thankfulness, and perused with attention, they are often treated with every mark of disrespect. But notwithstanding these discouragements, the measure of putting the sacred records of our faith into the hands of our native subjects, cannot be sufficiently recommended. They may find access where the preacher cannot; and if accompanied by judiciously written tracts, pointing out their divine origin and authenticity, may succeed in undermining a fabric, which ruder attacks seem only to strengthen and support."

I intended to have concluded this letter, with a variety of pertinent remarks; but it has already run on to such a length, that I must reserve them for a future occasion of more leisure. The Reverend Gentleman's absence from the late Meeting of the AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, is not of much consequence, abstractedly considered; but, has he ever lent a helping hand, has he ever interested himself and engaged in those measures of the humane, the Philanthropic, and the pious servants of God, to diffuse the light of knowledge and Christianity in these regions of ignorance and superstition? Has he not, on the contrary, resigned the *Sub-Secretariship* to this very AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY; and that, too, soon after his appointment to it? It will be said, that either his time, or his health, required him to resign it. Granted; but did his time, or his health allow him to edit the *MIRROUR* Newspaper? Did his health, or his time, allow him to write ill-natured *critiques* in the CALCUTTA GAZETTEER; one, on the MEMOIRS of the late amiable and very pious Dr. BUCHANAN; and another, on a Confirmation Sermon preached in the Cathedral, by our late Venerable Archbishop Dr. LORING? Did his time, or his health, allow him to draw up congratulatory Addresses to our MOST NOBLE GOVERNOR GENERAL, who has just quitted India; and, because the Address of his manufactory was rejected, to pen, print, and circulate, abuse against Mr. FENDALL, CAPT. LOCKETT, DR. FULLARTON, MR. PALMER, and several other respectable members of this small community? Has he, then, now both time, and health, to attend at all Meetings for secular purposes, to resort to places of gaiety and amusement, to write in the *JOHN BULL* Newspaper, to edit a MAGAZINE, to weigh out *Poussé*, and *Sand*, to measure *Tape*, and *Leather*, to examine *Paper*, *Wax*, and *Sirrar's Writing Needs*, as *Clerk* to the Stationery Committee; and has he neither time, nor health, to attend the Meetings of BIBLE SOCIETIES?—to co-operate in the measures pursuing by Clergymen of every denomination, towards the intellectual improvement and religious instruction of the Natives of Hindustan? nor indeed—if it be too irksome for him to move out of his Study, in this debilitating climate, to compose some of those "judiciously written Tracts, (he talks of,) pointing out the divine origin and authenticity of the sacred volume? Not; it is neither the want of time nor health, I apprehend, for such pious purposes; but the want of inclination. The cause of such irresistible propensity, to any occupation but those which become the character of a Divine, must be sought for in the heart and the affections of the man.

February 22, 1823.

BEE.

St. Andrews Kirk.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I am given to understand, that since the Scotch Divine has united to the service of God, the service of Mammon, several individuals who hitherto held seats in St. Andrew's Kirk, have given them up; and the poor Shepherds at their Head, have now invited them to hear his discourse without paying for seats.

It is high time that the United Secretaries, with their leading "Member," engage to fill up the vacancies; else the Clerk to the Paste Board, and Leather Committee, will have no flock at all—at all.

Feb. 18, 1823.

THE COCK FROM THE STEEPLE.

A Friendly Letter.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I perceive by to day's JOURNAL that Mr. Buckingham has resigned into other hands the management of that Paper, and judging from the firm but temperate tone of your first address to us, in the character of its present Conductor, I think that neither the Public nor the Proprietors of the JOURNAL have any cause to fear that it will not maintain its high reputation.

The task you have undertaken is an arduous one, but whilst the Paper is devoted to the spread of knowledge and the advocacy of liberal principles, you will never want powerful friends. Enemies you will have to combat as long as the cause of Freedom has enemies, though you will not always, as now, have to encounter those, who disdaining even the plausibility of sophistry, resort in furtherance of their ends, to assertions unfounded in fact, and to abusive language. On the task of exposing conduct so debasing and so disgraceful, you have already, I find, entered in a manner that gives promise of continued triumph. As far indeed as respects the mere unfounded assertions of your opponents, your victory is of course at all times certain—for *iniquitas est veritas et precepsit*—but their dark insinuations will continue to require refutation and exposure. The task will perhaps be an irksome one, inasmuch as it involves the necessity of contemplating human nature degraded to the lowest degree. Your opponents, Sir, have shown themselves, with few exceptions, a hired, heartless band of calumniators, ready to devote the reason with which God has endowed them to any and whatever purposes the interest, the envy, or the malice of their employers may require. Do they seek the proof of this accusation? I will give it them in a few words—Have they not under the cowardly screen of anonymous signatures attacked the private character of an individual, accusing him by name of such and so many offences that had they been able to prove him guilty of one tenth part of them, he would now have been expelled the Society with scorn, and his Paper have dwindled away into that insignificance with which their own labours are regarded? They cannot deny that they have done this—they only pretend to think, that they have proved what they advanced. But this is not true—they know that they have utterly failed, that Mr. Buckingham is received into the Society of the first circles here, esteemed and respected by men whose reputation is far above the reach of the puny efforts of their hidden malice. They know too, and hence their impotent rage, that the CALCUTTA JOURNAL still maintains its proud pre-eminence.

But even had they succeeded in proving, what they in fact never believed even themselves, still would their mode of attack have justly subjected them to the imputation of being destitute of every spark of manly feeling; as it is, they have, as they justly merit, drawn down on themselves the indignation of every generous mind. From such men it is in vain to look for either truth or candour, though the object of that blind fury which urged them to tear down and overstep these proper boundaries of hostility in public Writers, may have retired from the scene, on which the exhibition of his transcendent abilities, gave them such deep and

Monday, February 24, 1823.

—747—

mortal offence, for as long as the CALCUTTA JOURNAL flourishes, and long may it do so! their enmity will live and be directed, as it has hitherto been, unrestrained by either decency or moderation against the conductor of it, be he who he may; this they have already exemplified in their sideward attacks upon you in the Letters of ANOLUS and NO DURE, and to be in character, they commenced these attacks with two assertions which they know to be unfounded, one of which being a mere gratuitous assumption, and the other boldly ventured in imposing language without even an attempt to support it either by argument or precedent. They assume and endeavour to dissuade the belief, that you being an Indo-Briton are selected to conduct the Paper for the sole purpose of carrying on a rancorous hostility against the Government. But how could they know this even if it were the case? You have not declared it. No, say they, but it has been stated, that the Paper is to be conducted on principles similar to those advocated by your Predecessor. But suppose that in advocating those very principles, he may have been betrayed by a warmth of temperament, to exceed the limits of propriety; I don't say that he has, nor do I think it; but admitting that his zeal in the cause of freedom may have carried him too far, does it follow, that in your advocacy of the same cause, you are bound to copy his errors, or that you will do so? the assumption that you will, is perfectly gratuitous and put forth in that spirit which you must expect to meet with in most of the attacks that will be made on you by the hand of Scribblers to whom you have alluded. In that same spirit and with the same malicious intent to shake the public confidence in the certainty of your continuance in the office you have undertaken, and so ably commenced, have they risked the assertion, that an INDO-BARTON can be sent out of the Country without trial if it be deemed politically necessary. That you can be intimidated by such a threat I have no apprehension; but the tone of authority in which it is thrown out, may impose on those, who do not take the trouble to examine for themselves, and to obviate this therefore, I venture to state, on good authority, that if any such measure should ever be resorted to, he would have an easy and immediate resource against it, by putting himself under the protection of the Supreme Court; but is an insult to the Government to suppose it capable of attempting any thing of the kind. If you, Sir, as I hope you never will, should ever have recourse to violent and indecent hostility against this Government or its head, it is well known that you are amenable to the Law, and that it possesses the power of inflicting a punishment adequate to your offence. While in fact you confine yourself within the bounds of moderation and truth, there ought not to be, and I trust there will not be, any desire even, to remove you illegally from your Post. In selecting a person to conduct the Paper who is above the reach of Summary Transmission, I believe and hope that your Predecessor has been influenced, not by a desire to see it opposed to the Government, but simply by a wish to render the property of the concern secure against the consequences of any misconception of what may have been penned with intentions the most innocent, as in the recent instance, in which a mere newspaper squib, levelled at an individual, who would fain have us believe, that he can serve both God and Mammon, has been construed into hostility to the Government. This is what I understand, and what none but those interested in injuring the success of the JOURNAL can pretend to deem unjustifiable or improper. You are fortunately not liable to the consequences of any such misconception; but never let this exemption lead you into error; and above all! beware of being goaded on to intemperance, by the ferocious and possibly even personal scurrility, which may be levelled at you. In the early part of your Predecessor's career, a Correspondent under the signature of AMICUS gave him the following excellent advice: *Arduis in rebus, equanim serare mentem.* In the exercise of your vocation, always bear this to mind; and you will assuredly prosper.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant.

Heerah, February 27, 1823.

A SUBSCRIBER.

A Query.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

As the present times have made Queries the rage, I have presumed to address you one; pray pass it to one of your valuable correspondents. I am ambitious of a place among the fraternity of Querists.

When by good fortune one is raised to his extremest wish, why does he headlessly stamp his happy elevation by an absurd desire, without endeavouring to obtain a foresight of the circumstances attendant on so harsh a procedure?

Your well-wisher,

M.

Important Events.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

From the Advertisement of this morning, I rejoice to find that Mr. Buckingham, your respected Predecessor in Office, intends to set up a Publication in England, which is to be called "THE NEW ASIATIC JOURNAL." This, Sir, serves only to confirm me in the high opinion I have always entertained of the character of that Gentleman. He is not a man to be trifled with. Nothing but fair play will do with him. To banish him summarily from India, as if he were a heinous monster of iniquity unworthy of existence, is no joke.

The present month, Sir, beyond any hitherto known in India, has been most prolific in important events. Mr. Jameson, Clerk to the Stationary Committee, dies; a certain Reverend German, as a reward for his past meritorious services in the Clerical line, is appointed to fill the vacant situation, and Mr. Buckingham very properly, in the exercise of his reasoning faculty, comments upon the glaring impropriety of a Scotch Divine meddling with Paste Board, Buffalo Hide, Leather, Gum, Wax, Red Ink, Black Ink, &c. &c. &c. This stirs up so much wrath in a certain quarter, that interest is made to procure the Summary Banishment of the offender from India, without the benefit either of Judge or Jury. Like himself, however, full of energetic spirit, Mr. Buckingham stoops to no apology for his harmless conduct, takes the Order for Summary Banishment at its word, wishes them all good bye, transfers the JOURNAL Office to other hands subject only to Law, —packs up for England, and then announces to the Indian Public the pleasing intelligence of his intended publication of a NEW ASIATIC JOURNAL.

Here is a curious chain of circumstances wrought up and brought about in the short space of less than a month. Now, in addition to a CALCUTTA JOURNAL conducted on the spot in the true spirit of a Free Born and a half-Englishman, we shall have a NEW ASIATIC JOURNAL on Indian Affairs conducted in England, and in a still higher spirit, by a Gentleman whose stock of right feelings has suffered no diminution by his short residence in this country—so much have the Indian *uallahs* benefited by the change.

But, Sir, so heartily do I approve of the plan of a NEW ASIATIC JOURNAL of the kind now contemplated, that I beg you will do me the favor to put me down in a double capacity, both as a Subscriber and as an occasional Contributor of Matter on Indian Affairs. If these cannot bear to see the light here, whose fault is that? Not mine I am sure; for I will not take the credit of fathering them, and of modelling them into a shape which shrinks from all scrutiny. Mine will be the more humble office of an Indian-Historian; being, Sir, in the same breath both

Your obedient Servant, and

Feb. 22, 1823.

AN INDIAN, BORN.

The Indian Day.

No. I.—DAWN.

Now come the delicate sighings of the gale
First-born of dawn, the sun's sweet harpinger,
Which, as a herald, still precedes the pale
And silvery mantled day break.—There's a stir
Of life amongst the dewy opening flowers;
The hum of insects, and the ceaseless whirr
Of wings innumerable, gem-like showers;
Fall from the whispering boughs of waving trees,
And in the west a dim star rolls away,
But seems to linger, kissing with its ray
Yon cool gray stream, the soft refreshing breeze
Creeps on, as slumber steals o'er hearts at ease,
To fan with perfumed wings, and breathings light
The sober footsteps of retiring night.

BERNARD WYCLIFFE.

Epigram.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,
Comparisons are sometimes odious, and Squibs, tho' inferior to Congreve Rockets, are sometimes very disagreeable, firing and sticking like a bar to one's tail. To whose tail the accompanying should be gumm'd, and who most deserves the odium and the smart, be it unto all truly pious and sincere Christians of this and all other nations honestly and fearlessly to declare.

A certain Minister and I
Are seen through in a trice;
One's marked with dark Hypocrisy,
The other's stamped with "VICE."

A BULL in character is one,
Continually butting;
But when my utmost I have done,
At last 'tis only cutting.

His cloven foot, his horns and tail,
Are seen by all the nation;
The worldly Minister can't fail,
To scare his congregation.

With Pounce and Sand and Gum at hand,
He sticks to making Money;
Unlike the Good Samaritan,
Whose Balm, was Oil and Honey.

And these he freely gave to all,
Unmindful of himself,
Inspired by a heavenly call,
He disregarded Pelf!

The heart of which I bear the brand,
With VICE is deep imprest;
But oh! the shining, golden sand,
The Heart of Worldly Priest!

I am, Sir,
ONE OF THE MANY, OF THE COMPANY'S
PEN KNIVES.

Squib Court, Feb. 19, 1823.

Branded as they are thus



COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

BUY] CALCUTTA. [SELL
1 1/4 a 2 1/4 On London 6 Months sight, per Sicca Rupees. . . 2 a 2 1/4
Bombay 30 Days sight, per 100 Bombay Rupees . . 92
Madras ditto, 94 a 95 Sa. Rs. per 100 Madras Rupees. .
Bills on Court of Directors drawn, at 3 6—Exchange 26 a 28 pr. ct. prem.
Bank Shares—Premium 60 to 62 per cent.

John MacGregor Murray.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

It shews very plainly the want of stability in the passions and affections of the human heart, when it is left to a humble individual, as I am, to record the virtues of a man so distinguished as the late Sir John MacGregor Murray;—of a man, whose long life was employed in unceasing and unostentatious endeavours to benefit mankind, and whose career, from the earliest period of his existence to his last hour, has been unstained by any spot. Such was he, now forgotten, or if remembered at all, remembered without a sigh, by those, who, while he had life and power, were his most humble and obsequious followers; such was he, whose heart-felt eulogium I now pen—an eulogium, which might have been the sad yet grateful task of a more able hand, but which could not have devolved on one more zealous.

From the obscurity, in which was involved, partly by its own imprudence, partly by the oppression of others,—the family whose chief and whose ornament he was, did his virtue and ability extricate him; while his heart beat with every warm and generous feeling, his understanding decided and vigorous prompted him to store his mind with extensive and useful knowledge, and to aspire to the attainment of excellence, a noble ambition, which has never yet failed of reaching—fame that proud goal to which it aims!

The race he ran, was attended with difficulties, which nothing but the most meritorious and undeviating perseverance could have surmounted. He started inexperienced, indigent and friendless, into a life of care and public business, he terminated the well spent period of his existence, in competence and honor—honor? not the honor conferred by a Baronetcy, which might be purchased, nor the honor of noble connections, which might be bought also, nor the honor paid to wealth, which might be adventitious: no, the honor which I allude to, is one above, and independent of all these;—it is the honor of a character unblemished either in public, or private life.

Is there an honest man, who respects not the benefactor of the poor?

Is there a Highlander, who can refuse his gratitude to the Patriot?

Is there a MacGregor of heart so sold, that it is not animated with affection for the memory of him, whose fostering and paternal hand cherished and protected them, individually, and whose first and last wish was, for the credit and prosperity of all who bore the name!—There cannot be.

The worthy man, whose merit I have thus feebly attempted to sketch, is a lively example of the benefits arising from a well directed and persevering ambition. With esteem and admiration.

I am Sir, Your obedient Servant,

A FRIEND OF WORTH.

Ships Advertised for Different Ports.

Ships' Names.	Commanders.	Where Bound.	Probable time of Sailing.
Exmouth,	G. Evans,	{ Mauritius & } { London, . . . }	All March
Thames,	— Litson,	London,	10th March
Ninerva,	— Bell,	London,	All February
Sir Edward Paget,	John Greary,	Cape & London,	1st March
Woodford,	Alfred Chapman,	London,	All February
Prince of Orange,	John Moncreiff,	London,	1st March
Princess Charlotte,	J. McKean,	Liverpool,	End of Feb.
Duc de Bordeaux,	— Moreau,	Bordeaux,	10th March
Mercure,	David Chevelaire,	{ Bordeaux } { via Pondi- } { cherry, . . . }	In a few days
Eliza,	— Woodhead,	Ile of France,	In a few days
John Shore,	J. J. R. Bowman,	New South Wales,	Ditto

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—749—

Mr. Mack's Ninth Lecture.

The METALS constitute a numerous and important class of simple substances, and are connected with all our improvements; their number has increased much of late years, at present it amounts to 42 or 43. Mr. Mack divides them into two sets—the first, which formed the subject of this Lecture, comprises all those which do not form bases of Alkalis and Earths; their names are as follows:—

Platina, Gold, [Silver, Palladium, Mercury, Copper, Iron, Tin, Lead, Nickel Cadmium, Zinc, Bismuth, Antimony, Manganese, Cobalt, Tellurium, Arsenic, Chromium, Molybdenum, Tungsten, Columbium, Selenium, Osmium, Rhodium, Tridium, Uranium, Titanium, Cerium Wodanium.

PLATINA was discovered in 1741. It is found in small grains in South America. These grains contain also Palladium, Rhodium, Osmium, and Tridium.

Palladium was combined with Gold for the graduation of the arc of the circular instrument constructed for Greenwich Observatory; for which its colour and hardness peculiarly adapted it.

Meteoritic Stones contain Iron, Nickel, and Chrome.

Specimens of many of the Metals and Ores were exhibited

I.—CHARACTERISTICS.

1.—The distinguishing characteristics of these Metals are—1. *Great specific gravity*; that of Platinum is 21.5, and Selenium about 4.3—the specific gravity may be increased by rolling, hammering, &c.

2.—*Opacity*.—They are all perfectly opaque, except Gold which when divided into thin leaves transmits light of a green colour, as was shewn by experiment, and Silver, which transmits a white light.

3.—*Lustre*.—They possess a peculiar Lustre, called Metallic Lustre.

4.—*Tenacity, &c.*—Many of them may be extended under the hammer, and are called *malleable*, or drawn into wire, and are called *ductile*. Different metallic wires possess different degrees of tenacity, by which is meant the power of supporting a weight without breaking.

Mr. Mack explained the method of making Gold Leaf by rolling, beating, &c. till it is reduced to the thinness of $\frac{1}{10000}$ part of an inch, and one grain of it will cover above 50 square inches.

5.—They are good conductors of Heat and Electricity.

6.—*Hardness*.—None of them is very hard, and some are so soft as to yield to the nail; a few are elastic and sonorous.

7.—*Fusibility*.—The Metals are all fusible by heat, but at various temperatures. Mercury is fluid at all common temperatures. Arsenic melts at 360°. Mercury boils at 690°. Zinc melts at 700°. Some Metals require the intense heat produced by an inflamed current of Oxygen and Hydrogen or that of Voltaic Electricity, to melt them.

II. COMBINATIONS.

1.—*With Oxygen*.—Metals combined with Oxygen form *Metallic Oxides*. The increase of weight obtained by calcination is owing to the absorption of Oxygen from the Atmospheric Air. Some Metals, such as Arsenic, &c. are Oxidized at common temperatures. Gold and Silver are not altered by the heat of furnaces, but may be Oxidized by the Voltaic flame. Oxidation is not in proportion to affinity to Oxygen. The experiment of inflaming Zinc shewn. Iron wire was inflamed in Oxygen Gas at a former Lecture. Each Metal combines with Oxygen in a definite proportion. One Metal may combine in different proportions and the Oxides are of different colours.

Some Oxides are decomposed by mere heat, as those of Gold and Mercury. Others require the addition of some body to abstract the Oxygen. If red Oxide of Mercury be distilled with Iron filings, the Mercury will be revived.

Metals are not soluble in Acids except in the state of Oxides. Oxides do not effervesce. As most Metals decompose Nitric Acid, the latter is generally used for dissolving them. Strong Sulphuric acid poured upon Zinc had but little action, but when water was added, it was soon dissolved, the Oxygen was transferred to the Metal, and the Hydrogen disengaged, as was proved by setting fire to it.

The affinity of different Metals for Oxygen was shewn by two experiments.—1st, a piece of copper was dipped in a solution of Nitrate of Mercury and was soon covered with Quicksilver.—2d, the blade of a knife was dipped in Sulphate of Copper and became covered with copper from the Oxygen being attracted by the Iron.

These Metals, Arsenic Molybdenum, Chrome, Tungsten and Columbium produce Acids by combining with Oxygen.

Most of the metals combine with SULPHUR and form Sulphurets, some of which have a metallic lustre. Some are decomposed by heat, while others are unchanged. Many of the Metals are precipitated from their solutions by Sulphuretted Hydrogen.

Phosphorus unites to most Metals.

Carbon combines with very few; with Iron it forms Steel. Carbonic Acid unites to Oxides and forms Carbonates. All the Metals combine with Chlorine. Some, such as Antimony, &c. burn when thrown into this Gas as was proved at the first Lecture. The attraction of Chlorine for Metals is greater than that of Oxygen.

Hydrogen combines with two only. Water is decomposed by many.

Ammonia, combined with Oxides of Gold, Silver, and Platina detonates when heated.

ALLOYS.—The Metals are capable of combining with each other in their melted state in unlimited proportions, called *alloys*; but when Mercury forms a part, they are called *amalgams*. The mixture occasions a change in ductility, malleability, hardness, and colour. The alloy of Gold and Copper which is used for coins is harder than its component parts. An alloy of Gold and Iron is so hard that it is said to be superior to steel for making cutting instruments. The fusibility of an alloy is generally greater than that of its components. The use of *Solder* depends on this circumstance: a mixture of 6 parts of Bismuth 5 of lead and 3 of Tin will melt in boiling water as was shewn by experiment. Alloys are generally more Oxidizable than their constituents: thus a compound of 3 of Lead and 1 of Tin easily burns at a dull red heat, and is almost instantly volatilized. Amalgams and other alloys containing a volatile metal are decomposed by heat.

If a soluble metal be alloyed with an insoluble one, the former is sometimes protected by the latter from the action of an Acid: thus if Silver be combined with a large quantity of gold, the Nitric Acid will not act upon it, but if the Silver be increased to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the mass, the Acid will quickly dissolve it; this is called *quartation*.

The natural *Repositories* of Metals are veins which are found traversing rocks of all kinds. The richest metallic veins run East and West. The North and South veins are usually filled with stony materials, and are of posterior date to the former, generally throwing them out of their regular course. The veins vary in size, some suppose they have been filled by stony solutions flowing in from above; others think they have been filled from below by the injections of matter in igneous fusion.

Detached pebbles of ore or fragments of vein stones, and waters issuing from the soil holding metallic salts in solution have led to the discovery of the Repository of Metals. Districts rich in metals are generally barren. The metals are seldom found pure; they are generally combined with Sulphur, Acids, &c. many of the ores have a metallic appearance, Iron ore in some countries forms entire mountains.

The method of reducing ores is by selecting those which contain most metal, and breaking them by the hammer; the lighter parts are then washed away by water in an inclined trough, and the volatile parts dissipated by roasting; they are

then smelted with earthy substances, which are disposed to run into glass and allow the revived metal to fall to the bottom. The metals may also be separated by Acids. The perfect metals are separated by heat; the mass is put with Lead into a cup of burnt bones and placed under a muffle in a furnace; the Lead vitrifies and carries the imperfect metals with it. The Gold and Silver may be separated as before mentioned, or the Gold may be dissolved by Aqua Regia.

Ceylon Literary and Agricultural Society.

The Annual meeting of the Society was held at the Chambers of the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court on the 16th inst. at which, Sir Hardinge Giffard who presided, delivered the following discourse; reviewing the proceeding of the society since its formation, and suggesting to its Members the best means of accomplishing the design of its establishment. We are persuaded that our readers will feel obliged to us for publishing this document, and we hope it will have its due effect in producing more frequent communications to the Society on its important objects.

GENTLEMEN,

As we are now entering upon the third year of our institution, it may be useful to look back upon our proceeding, and examine how far we have hitherto fulfilled the purpose of our association.

To do this with fairness to ourselves, we should bear in mind very clearly what that purpose was, as well as the means which we have enjoyed of carrying it into effect if our purpose has been rational and useful and the means accessible and adequate, we are bound to show to the world, that we have not neglected the task which we have voluntarily undertaken. Our purpose detailed at large in our preliminary paper of association may be expressed in a very few words; it was the collection and subsequent diffusion of information concerning the civil and natural history of Ceylon.

To this end we have solicited the communication of information from every person willing to furnish it, and having collected what may be offered, then will commence our further duty of selecting such as may appear sufficiently valuable for diffusion amongst the public.

In the first part of this task, we have made a degree of progress to which I shall have to call your more particular attention hereafter: and I doubt not so as to satisfy you that we have not been unavailing Stewards for the interests of Science.

But though we cannot reproach ourselves with having neglected our duty, there will arise some slight feelings of disappointment, that we have not been more eminently successful; and that we are yet unable to offer any specimen of our labours to the public judgment.

But this feeling is scarcely justifiable, when our situation is fully considered; the very limited number of Europeans in this Country who devote themselves to scientific pursuits has confined our correspondence principally to the Medical Officers of his Majesty's Service, and to them indeed our sincerest thanks are more than due: but excepting in a very few instances, we can boast of communication from scarcely any other quarter.

In endeavouring to trace this apparent apathy to its source, I believe that I have discovered one cause, in an erroneous opinion too generally formed of the Plan and object of the Society.

The class of valuable Correspondents, to whom I have alluded, are from their professional pursuits well acquainted with the nature of such associations, and being themselves from professions intimately connected with Science, they feel that zeal for its diffusion which arises irresistibly from the discovery of new facts connected with it; this they are from habit enabled to do with facility, and from their intelligence with advantage.

On the other hand, Gentlemen not conversant with such subjects, feel diffidence and difficulty in coming forward with such facts as, however new and striking to them, they yet suppose may possibly be long since known to persons more conversant with Science in general.

It is purposely, to overcome this obstacle to improvement, that I would most anxiously impress upon all, that our Society solicits information of every kind, and from every quarter; reserving only the power of withholding from the public eye whatever may not appear sufficiently valuable for general circulation.

But besides the difficulty, I have mentioned, and acting powerfully in concert with it; there is another arising from a mistaken conception of our association, which must naturally impede our progress as long as it is suffered to exist.

It is the opinion, which I had to be entertained by too many, that our Society tends to form itself into a Board of criticism upon the different communications made to it, and of that of class critics too, who set their own reputation upon the condemnation of the delinquent; who rashly

presumes to instruct or entertain the public. Far from us be such a ruinous spirit; for whatever may be offered to it not inconsistent with good morals, we ought to be respectfully grateful; we ought also to recollect that since the interruption between what was its mother-country and this Island, great revolutions in Science itself have taken place, and that systems received not only in Holland but through all the learned world forty years ago, are now exploded and almost forgotten in Europe. If therefore we find reference made to those systems, we should not decline or doubt the facts which may accompany such references; or feel the less gratitude for information, because it is connected with theory which is now no longer acknowledged.

It is to the prevalence of the notions I have mentioned that we must attribute our having received so few communications from the Dutch Gentlemen of the island, or even from the intelligent amongst the Cinghalese; but when they can feel assured, that we look upon any communication as a favour and that it shall be received and treated at least with the respect and attention due to voluntary kindness, there can be little doubt that these sources will be liberally opened to our desires.

With this apology for what we have not done; founded not in our remissness, but on the misconception of others, let us now proceed to the more gratifying consideration of what we have actually performed.

To our able and excellent Vice President Doctor Parrill, we owe some very valuable communications, and we must further ascribe much of the good spirit, which has prevailed in the department over which he presides, to his salutary influence and example.

Amongst our Correspondents of this department, Messrs. Collier, and Hoatson, are particularly entitled to our grateful recollection. The system of Conchology traced by the former of these gentlemen, and founded not only on the external form, but upon the internal physiology of the Creatures inhabiting shells, promises to supersede all those, which depending upon appearance, often vague and transitory, left the knowledge of that beautiful department of Nature in a state of confusion and uncertainty.

We have also to thank this Gentleman, for his kindness in forming our collection of Conchology, his opportunities at Trincomalee have given him advantages, in the immediate investigation of these subjects, which he has not permitted to pass unemployed.

From Mr. Russell we have an highly useful report upon the subject of smelting the Iron of Ceylon; the extraordinary and valuable quality possessed by this Metal, in being malleable immediately from the furnace, will probably attract attention amongst our manufacturers at home to whom such a property must in many instances prove inestimable.

In Mr. Hoatson's very full account of the Cinghalese practice of Medicine, and their Materia Medica, if we do not find any thing to rival the improved state of Medical knowledge in Europe we can contemplate with some advantage the extent to which a perseverance in original error, unenlightened by the operation of the understanding, will carry the human mind, their system seems to combine all the old absurdities of European ignorance upon this important topic, with an abundance of truly Indian origin.

To our late very worthy Member Colonel Wright, we owe some very ingenious observations upon the action of the quicksilver in a Barometer within the Tropics, and particularly the curious fact of its periodical rising and falling twice within twenty-four hours so regularly, as to afford almost an opportunity of measuring the lapse of time by this instrument.

Professor Rank, a Gentleman travelling for the purposes of Science under the patronage of the King of Denmark, have been detained for some time in this Island, was kind enough to become an Honorary Member of our Society. He has given to us a most elaborate and valuable treatise upon the construction of a general Alphabet, adapted to all the Indian dialects. A scheme which, if it could be adopted at least with respect to printed communications, would much abridge the labours of learned men in investigating subjects connected with India.

Our highly respected Member Mr. Ensign has furnished us with an accurate observation of the late Transit of Mercury.

In a short paper upon the Maranta Drundenacea or Indian Arrow Root, Mr. Moon has pointed out the proper management of a Vegetable only lately introduced into Ceylon, but promising from its facility of growth and the simplicity with which it is rendered fit for food to add much to the comfort of its Inhabitants.

To extend the usefulness of our Institution, we have resolved to include Agriculture in the subjects to which our attention is directed. The communications in this instance have been few in addition to Mr. Moon's; we have however from Mr. Vanderhaegh some important suggestions and from an Anonymous contributor an Essay on the Horticulture of Ceylon, which however presents too discouraging a view of the subject to induce us to give it more extensive circulation.

From our worthy Members Mr. Marshall, Mr. Bennett, Mr. De Sa-
ram and from Count Rannow we have received papers relating to sub-
jects of Natural History, adding to our stock of information in that de-
partment of Science.

Our efforts towards compiling catalogues of the Natural History of
Ceylon have been to a certain degree successful. Some (we wish we
could say a majority) of the lists of queries circulated with that view
have been returned in a very satisfactory manner in this we have to no-
tice the zeal and diligence of some of the more intelligent Natives, most
particularly of the Modellar of the Hapittogam Corle, who in the returns
from his district has given us a very complete list of the various Animals
included in its Natural History.

Through the kindness of Messrs. Armstrong and Know, we have
been enabled to commence the formation of a Museum, with a collection
of the Birds of the Interior of this Island: we have received specimens
from many quarters. Messrs. Gibson, Blackhouse and several other
Gentlemen have made contributions of this kind, and we have every rea-
son to hope that their example will be followed by all who possess op-
portunities of thus furthering the purposes of Science and improvement.

Having thus reviewed our progress and sketched our present situa-
tion, allow me to express an opinion that we have not been deficient in
our duty; and that with a very little exertion on the part of Gentlemen in
the several outstations of this Island we may be enabled to render essen-
tial service to the general interests of Science.—*Ceylon Govt. Gaz.*

British Settlements to the Eastward.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

SIR,
I promised in one of my earlier Letters to give you some account
of the principal settlements possessed by our nation to the Eastward,
together with some notices of the causes which contributed to the loss
of them. Beginning with SIAM, I now proceed to perform my promise.
It was in that country that they had one of their earliest settlements,
which for a time was beneficial, but afterwards abandoned as unpro-
ductive. It was again established, and again abandoned in 1686. At
this time the traders of our nation were in great favor with the Siamese
Government, but were ordered to quit the country by the East India
Company, which they did, thus obliging them to relinquish all the ad-
vantages likely to be derived from so desirable a connexion. At this
time, the Siamese territory was more extended than at present. It
reached along the whole of the eastern coast of the Bay of BENGAL in-
cluding Mergui and TENASSERIN, and here it was that the English were
principally established. The following is the account given by one of the
old writers (HAMILTON) of their removal from Mergui. "In former times
a good number of English free merchants were settled at MERGUE, and
drove a good trade living under a mild and indulgent Government, but
the Old East India Company envying their happiness, by an arbitrary
command, ordered them to leave their industry, and repair to Fort St.
George to serve them, and threatened the King of SIAM with a sea
war, if he did not deliver those English up or force them out of the coun-
try, and in Anno 1687, sent one Captain WILSON, in a small ship cal-
led the CURTANY to Mergui with that message. He behaved himself
very insolently to the Government, and killed some Siamese without any
just cause. One night when WILSON was ashore, the Siamese thinking to
do justice on him, got a company together designing to seize or kill the
aggressor, but WILSON having notice of their design, made his escape on
board his ship, and the Siamese, missing him, though very narrowly, vented
their rage and revenge on all the English they could find. The poor
victims, being only guarded by their innocence, did not so much as cover
themselves to withstand the fury of the enraged mob, so that seventy-
six were massacred, and hardly twenty escaped on board the CURTANY,
so there was the tragical consequence of one man's insolence."

"Before that time the English were so beloved and favored at the
Court of SIAM, that they had places of profit and trust conferred upon
them, both in the civil and military branches of the Government. Mr. SA-
MUEL WHITE was made shawbunder or custom master at MERGUE and TE-
NASSERIN, and Captain WILLIAMS was admiral of the King's navy; but the
troublesome company and a great revolution that happened in the state
of SIAM, made some repair to FORT ST. GEORGE, others to BENGAL, and
some to ACHEN. This is a pretty fair specimen of the manner in which
many of our most valuable settlements in INDIA have been wrested from
us, through the indiscretion of individuals or companies. Ever since
that time, our trade, if not entirely excluded from the ports of SIAM, has
laboured under great and heavy restrictions, and in consequence our
trade has never flourished."

Up to the latter end of the 17th century our nation had establish-
ments in all the countries between SIAM and CHINA, viz. in COCHIN
CHINA, TONGKIN and KAMBOJA.—With TONGKIN in particular, both the
English and Dutch carried on a very extensive trade.—This country it is
more than probable presents at the present day a more extensive field

for our commercial enterprise than any other nation of ASIA.—Its cen-
trical situation enables it with advantage to conduct a great trade with
CHINA, and the adjacent countries. But the most valuable branch of
its trade is that which it conducts with the interior or western provinces
of CHINA, and particularly with those of YUNAN and KWANG-SAI.—
Through the channel of KAI-CHHO, the capital, our broad cloths, opium
and various other articles are introduced into the Kingdom, and dis-
tributed through these Chinese provinces quite up to the frontiers of LAO.
The goods in these instances besides the necessary charges of freight from
CANTON to TONGKIN, have the additional ones of a land carriage from
KAI-CHHO to the places before named, which occupies nearly a month.—
Opium is the most important article thus introduced.

In the early period of our intercourse with CHINA, our trade was
not as now limited to one port, but we had factories at E-MUI, CHUSAN,
and TYWAN. Of these E-MUI was the most important. It is situated
near the great province of FO-KIEN, the inhabitants of which are con-
sidered, and deservedly, to be the most enterprising of the Chinese and
in which province the whole of the black tea is produced.—This how-
ever was deserted, as unprofitable, because it was unable to support
the expensive establishment thought necessary by the Company. In
consequence of a rupture with the native authorities, CHUSAN was also
abandoned. Part of the settlers at this place took refuge on PULO
CONDOR, where they built a fort, and the others at BANJARMASIN.
Both of these settlements however, were cut off, in the beginning of the
18th century by their own Malay soldiers. Of those at BANJARMASIN
I believe the whole escaped but only a few of the settlers at PULO CON-
DOR had the good fortune to do so, and those who did, owed it to the
circumstance of an open boat laying on the shore, in which they escaped
to the Kingdom of LAOS.

I am, &c.

Calcutta, 16th February, 1823.

A TRAVELLER.

Female Masons.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

SIR,
Having seen accounts of the grand doings of the worthy Masonic
Brethren of this Presidency I must trespass on your time in behalf of the
still worthier, lovely Masonic Sisters, the wives of Members of this com-
munity, who inspired with that curiosity which is characteristic of their
sex—a laudable curiosity and one for which a reason can be given, have
endeavored to prevail upon such of their spouses as are known to be
"good, easy, men" to ease them of their tormenting doubts, and to de-
clare whether there be, or be not, any grand secret, in the practice of
Masonry. Report saith that that not a few of these spirited dames
have succeeded with their peace-loving mates so far, as to compel
them to acknowledge that there is really no secret in Masonry, and that
it is only the air of Mystery, and solemnity which accompanies all their
proceedings that cause, it to appear so; whether it be or be not so. I
have no data whereupon to give an opinion, but am bound to reject the
assertion of the Gentleman who persist in saying there is a secret in
Masonry. A heavy charge is brought against the Masons, viz. that on
Lodge nights they are absent from home to a very late, and unreasonable
hour, thereby causing to their loving mates, much peevishness and dis-
content and that the Free and Accepted brethren are considered by ma-
ny, to have, become worse husbands since their reception into the bosom
of Masonry.

The Spinsters too, of Calcutta, put in their share of accusation, by
charging the brethren with being the chief cause of influencing the
Bachelors to become Masons, thereby confirming them in their anti-
matrimonial opinions, to the utter ruin of the prospects of the rising gen-
eration, and that of the country at large.

By what law, human or divine can the Brethren defend their prac-
tices of wearing aprons and sashes—this is a daring violation of the rights
of the sex, those articles being peculiar appurtenances of our dress.—
It may be objected, Mr. Editor, that the Ladies have in all ages attempt-
ed, and if we are to believe histories, both ancient and modern, have
not seldom succeeded, in obtaining the undisputed wearing of a most im-
portant and indispensable article of dress belonging to the other sex—
but this charge would be futile, inasmuch as it has always been consider-
ed to be a figurative expression, as "the whip hand," "the blind side"
simply meaning thereby, that the person has an ascendancy. Now is not
this statement of wrongs and grievances sufficient to rouse females in
every quarter of the globe where Masonry has a footing, to assert the
rights of their sex, and endeavour with all their power to counteract the
baneful effects which have arisen from the unbounded self-love of the
Male portion of the creation. We are no "stocks and stones," but feel
keenly every slight and injury, and know how to resent them upon our
naughty Lords, should occasion require. It has remained for the fair
Inhabitants of this Presidency to set a memorable example to the world
by calling a meeting (at which of course no Gentlemen will be permit-
ted to be present) to consider upon the expediency of establishing a
Female Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons—to fix upon the Sign word;

—752—

and Grip, to canvass the Bye Laws, to give a designation to the Lodge to appoint a Lady President, Wardens, Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tyler, and to establish the colour of the order. Spinsters above the age of eighteen are eligible to be elected. This meeting will be held in a short time not far from the Scotch Church at the house of one of the lodignant Sisters.

The Lodge is already fixed upon—it is a spacious upper room in a house in Chowringhee, running East and West, with a room at the East for Reliaia, and another on the West for preparation and refreshment. The approach is by a well lighted winding stair of easy ascent.—The Ladies invited, are requested to be punctual in attendance that the subjects to be laid before the meeting, may be discussed in due order and with all proper solemnity.

Thus far I have attempted to turn the attention of my Fair Sisters to the assertion of their just rights.

LUCRETIA.

Selections.

Madras Gazette, Feb. 8, 1833.—The APOLLO takes her departure this Evening with the following Passengers.

From Madras: Mrs. Broderick, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Crotty, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Fosberry, Colonel Stewart, M. E.; Major Broderick, H. M. 34th Regt.; Captain Savage, H. M. 13th Dragoons; Captain Williams, H. M. 53d Regt.; Captain McQueen, Madras Cavalry; Captain Malton, M. N. 1.; Lieutenants Carpenter, Sweeney, Bramer, and Dr. Maclean, H. M. 53d Regt.; Lieut. Elgie, H. M. 53d Regt.; Lieutenants Lynch, Fosberry, and Bradford, M. E.; J. Higginson, Esq.; Mr. Cardoso;—Children: Misses Ann Broderick, Jane, M. J. Sweeney, and E. Fosberry; Masters Henry Broderick, James P. Sweeney, and J. Malton.

The Ship YORK has almost completed the reception of her homeward-bound Cargo—and will positively sail on the 13th instant.

We are in daily expectation of the arrival of the Ship MARQUESS OF HASTINGS, Captain James Barclay. We have received a Letter from the Commander, communicating his intention of leaving England on the 20th September—having engaged numerous Passengers.

Bombay, Feb. 6, 1833.—The BOMBAY CASTLE, Capt. Hutchinson, was at Malacca on the 1st January, on her way to this port having left Canton on the 21st Dec.

The prices and demand for Opium and Cotton remained much the same, as at the last advices from China.

The annexed extract from a private letter dated Canton 21st December will show that the late disastrous fire has caused less inconvenience and less than was at first expected.

"In the mean time we may say, that affairs and even buildings, among the Chinese are beginning to assume their former aspect, and more rapidly than we at first imagined possible after so heavy a visitation; and trade in general though considerably impeded and deranged for a time, is likely we think to suffer less upon the whole than might have been apprehended."

Shipping Departures.**CALCUTTA.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
Feb. 20	Fiora	British	J. Sherill	Ceylon
21	Eugenia	British	A. Hogg	China
21	Princess Charlotte	British	J. Lamb	Rangoon

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
Jan. 26	Waterloo	British	G. C. S. Living	England

Stations of Vessels in the River.**CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 21, 1833.**

Kedgeres.—LA SEINE, (F.), outward bound, remains.

New Anchorage.—H. C. SHIPS THAMES, for Penang and China, is expected to sail in a few days.—GENERAL HEWETT.

Sauger.—H. C. S. MARCHELONNE OF ELY, outward-bound, remains.

The *LABRELLA*, arrived at the Custom House Ghaut on Friday; the *PASSE KURBIN*, at Conley Bazar ditto; the *HERO OF MALOWN*, at Bokha ditto; the *ELIZA*, (P. brig), at Colvin's Ghaut ditto; and the *ANTHUR*, (F.), at the Bankshall Ghaut ditto.

The Ship *ELIZA*, Captain B. S. Woodhead, is expected to sail for the Isle of France in two or three days.

Commercial Reports.

(From the Calcutta Exchange Price Current of Thursday last.)

	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Cotton, Jaleon, per maund	14 0	14 8
Catchoura,	12 8	13 8
Grain, Rice, Patna,	2 3	2 4
Patchery, 1st,	3 4	2 8
Ditto, 2d,	1 12	1 14
Moongy, 1st,	1 8	1 9
Ditto, 2d,	1 6	1 7
Ballum, 1st,	1 7	1 8
Wheat, Dooda,	1 1	1 2
Gram, Patna,	1 7	1 8
Dhall, Urruhr, good,	1 7	1 8
Indigo, Fine purple and violet,	290 0	295 0
Ordinary ditto,	280 0	285 0
Dull blue,	260 0	270 0
Inferior purple and violet,	240 0	250 0
Strong copper,	275 0	285 0
Ordinary ditto,	230 0	240 0
Onde, fine,	250 0	260 0
Ditto, ordinary,	200 0	220 0
Saltetre, Culmee, 1st sort,	5 0	5 8
2d sort,	4 12	5 0
3d sort,	4 0	4 0

Indigo.—The demand for this has rather increased since our last—sales to large extent both of Onde and lower Bengal have been effected during the week—the market is clearing fast of fine Indigo, and the inferior likely to come more into play.

Cotton.—The demand for this continues limited, and only for country consumption.—At Mirzapore, 11th February, new handah was quoted at 15-3, and old Catchoura at 13-14 per local maund—at Jessunge, 15th February, new handah was stated at 15-12 to 16, and old Catchoura at 14-8 to 11-12, sales during the week 2800 maunds, of which 600 were for Calcutta, and the rest for country consumption—stock 22,000 maunds.

Sugar and Saltetre.—Are rather dull—the latter looking down.

Piece Goods.—In limited demand, and the market heavy.

Metals.—Copper, sheathing, in fair demand, at our quotations—Iron and Steel dull, a large stock in the market—Spelter, in fair demand, and prices steady—Pig-Lead, in fair request—Sheet-Lead looking down.

Pepper.—Has advanced about four annas per maund, since our last—sales are going on in it at our quotations.

Freight to London.—May still be rated at £1 to £5 per Ton.

Marriages.

On the 23d instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Reverend J. PARSON, Mr. GEORGE HAVEL HOSMER, to CATHARINE, youngest Daughter of Mr. JOHN PHIPPS.

On the 19th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Reverend J. PARSONS, W. EASTGATE, Esq. to LYDIA, the only Daughter of the late Captain M. F. SMITH.

At Madras, on the 4th instant, at St. George's Church, by the Rev. W. ROY, JOHN CANNAC MORRIS, Esq. of the Civil Service, to ROSA, second Daughter of PETER CHERRY, Esq.

At the Hyderabad Residency, on the 25th ultimo, Mr. EDWARD LOUIS, to Miss ELIZABETH RADCLIFFE.

Deaths.

On the 23d instant, the Lady of THOMAS HEWETT, Esq. aged 23 years.

At Madras on the 20th January last departed this life, DOROTHY, the wife of HORMAJEE ERELJEE PONDAY, a well known Parsee Merchant. The loss of this truly virtuous Woman is greatly to be deplored—after an absence of many years, she left her native place, Bombay—in company with her brother and children to meet her husband—but alas! how vain were her hopes—She left Bombay on the 12th of December last, arrived at Tellicherry on the 18th, left that place on the 20th and reached Seringapatam on the 10th January, which she left 4 days afterwards, and arrived at Bangalore on the 17th—proceeded on her journey the following day and reached Ascuta, on her way from thence to Vellore she was attacked with symptoms of the Cholera.—In this state she arrived at Vellore, where skilful medical aid was procured but without the hoped for effect—she was then brought down with every despatch as far as Rajah's Choultry where she met her distressed husband, spoke with him, at Strepermatoor for about 16 hours and in his Company breathed her last.—Her remains were brought down to Madras, and interred with due ceremony, at the Parsee burying ground in Royapooram.